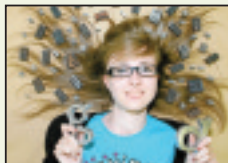


the chronicle

**CANAL PROJECT
TAKES IT TOLL**
Page 13



**FIONA DESIGNS
HER OWN TYPE**
Page 18



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Hospital to employ 100 extra nurses

More than 100 new nursing staff are to be taken on by Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital over the next 12 months as part of a £2 million investment.

The workers are being brought in as part of a wider project at the hospital to make better use of beds and cut down on the number of operations that need to be cancelled during the busy winter months. During December and January, almost 300 operations had to be put back after a surge in emergency patients due to winter illnesses leading to an extra 33 temporary emergency beds being opened. The project will also see wards moved around on the site to help make "better use" of facilities.

Chief executive at the Dudley Group of Hospitals Trust, Paula Clark, said around 135 staff will be taken on and she added: "More than £2 million will be invested into nursing staff over the next year, increasing the number of nurses we employ."

"This investment is part of a bigger project to make better use of our beds to prevent the need to cancel patients' planned surgery during our busiest months over the winter."

"Due to changes in our demand, we are moving nine of our 25 wards in the hospital to make better use of our facilities and so patients are on the right ward for their clinical needs."

Family's shop set alight in night-time burglary

Three people fled from a blaze at a Brierley Hill convenience store after thieves raided the shop and set the building alight. Three men, including the store owner, escaped as the flames threatened to spread to an upstairs flat.

The burglars forced open a metal shutter at the side of the Raja Supermarket and burst into the main shop. They wrenched a till from the counter and vandalised the Pennett premises on Sunday.

Owner Raja Khan, together with his father and brother, were asleep upstairs when a smoke alarm sounded at 3.10am. They escaped through a back door moments before thick black smoke and flames covered the front of the building, in Church Street.

Mr Khan's father, who declined to give his name, said: "We were lucky to be able to get out in time through the back door and when we came round to the front all we could see was smoke. Someone has said they have found the till dumped further down the road. We can't believe it as we've only just opened up and got the business going."

Legal action taken over tenants who break rules

Legal proceedings have been started against more than 30 residents in Dudley Council houses for breaking tenancy conditions, according to figures released by the authority.

They also show that 14 tenants have been thrown out of their home for such things as not paying their rent on time, not looking after their home, or harassing or causing their neighbours problems. There are now around 23,000 council houses in Dudley and all new residents are put on an introductory tenancy agreement for a year.

While subject to the agreement they must adhere to a set of strict conditions. It includes barring people from playing

loud music, shouting and swearing, banging or slamming doors or having a dog which barks too much.

Councillor Les Jones, leader of the council, said: "The council issues introductory tenancies to new tenants for a period of 12 months."

Extended

"This can be extended for a further six months where there has been a breach of tenancy conditions."

"During 2010/11 we extended nine introductory tenancies, issued 31 notices of possession proceedings and evicted 14 tenants during their introductory tenancy."

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Plans to move Dudley's archives service into a £6 million building will leave a 60-year debt well over twice that size, the council admits.

Dudley Council is consulting the public on the proposals to create the base on the site of the former Royal Brierley Crystal factory in Tipton Road, Dudley, near the Black Country Living Museum.

As well as housing Dudley's archives, part of the premises would be rented out to Sandwell Council for storage, although it is not contributing to the costs of the scheme.

The development will cost £6 million to build but new figures show that the council will borrow more than £5million. At the current 5.15 per cent interest rate, the total price of the scheme, including the cost of borrowing over 60 years, is expected to be £13.8 million.

Discovered

The archives are based at a former school in Coseley, which would be redeveloped for housing under the plans.

Brian Guest, aged 68, spokesman for a campaign group to save the base at the former Mount Pleasant School, said: "It's disgusting, in this day and age, that the council wants to pass on a toxic debt of £13.8 million to our children – and our children's children."

"If they haven't got the money, they shouldn't spend it." He discovered the overall cost after asking the council for more information on how the project would be financed.

Council chiefs say the archives service has almost outgrown its existing building and borrowing for such "improvements" is commonplace for local authorities.

Councillor Les Jones, leader of Dudley Council, said:

"These archives are a very precious part of our heritage and history and need to be kept in the right environment."

"The only alternative would be to lose them altogether."

"The archives service will be expanded and developed further in its new home, and we are currently collecting people's views as to what they would like the service to provide to the local community."

"In the long run the new building will reduce its running costs by generating its own electricity through solar PV panels on the roof."

The council had considered revamping the school but it was not viable, he said.

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Final cost of £6m project likely to more than double

LONG DEBT OF ARCHIVES RELOCATION

Sarah develops beady



Artist Sarah Jones has moved into Studio Seven at the Red House

Three years ago, teaching assistant Sarah Jones decided she needed a hobby and began searching for an art class she could take part in.

But none of the painting, sculpting and other craft courses really seemed right – until she stumbled across a glass bead-making workshop at the now-closed International Glass Centre in Brierley Hill.

Now, the mother-of-three is a qualified lampwork glass artist, working five days a week creating and selling her own beads and has

just moved into a large studio at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley. "I fell in love with it instantly," said Sarah, aged 41, of Milton Road, Coseley, who still works two days a week at Woodseton School in Sedgley.

She then linked up with another glass student, Jane Ellis, of Norton, and they eventually decided to go into business together. Part of the Made at the Cone collective of designers, the pair can be found in Studio Seven every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

Father grew £25,500 of cannabis

A father-of-one set up a £25,000 cannabis operation in the loft of his girlfriend's Brierley Hill home to pay off his debts, a court heard.

Christopher Hope, aged 26, was jailed for two and a half years after admitting at last week producing cannabis, and possession with intent to supply.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Hope had 104 plants of various sizes in the loft of the house in Cowslip Walk, with an estimated yield of up to £25,500, as well as 180 grammes of dried cannabis divided up into plastic bags.

Judge Michael Dudley said: "You have been involved in drugs before, both Class A and Class B."

"There is quite clearly a good side to you and people speak very highly of you. In many ways it is tragic to see you here."

Hope's partner Hayley Bloomer, 25, is accused of playing a role in the operation and of letting her home be used for growing the drug. She is due to be committed for sentence on September 2.

Mr Shane Crawford, prosecuting, said police were called to the house on January 29 and found the cannabis.

Mr Lee Masters, defending, said Hope and Bloomer's joint addition to cannabis had left them in financial difficulties.

A Proceeds of Crime Act hearing has been preliminarily set for December 9.

Failed asylum seeker's fraud

An illegal immigrant who was twice refused asylum pocketed thousands of pounds from the NHS Bursary Scheme using a fake Home Office ID document, a court heard.

Father-of-two Nelson Phiri, aged 27, of Green Park Road, Dudley, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, where he pleaded guilty to charges of obtaining property by deception from the NHS between May 1 and September 30, 2006, and defrauding the NHS between April 1, 2007, and October 30, 2008.

He also admitted to possession of false identification, which had been designed to look like a firm granting indefinite leave to remain in the UK, issued by the Home Office.

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said after being refused asylum, and losing on appeal, Phiri was finally granted leave to remain in the country under the Home Office Case Resolution Project in January.

Judge Martin Walsh ordered pre-sentence reports and granted him bail until September 2, when he will be sentenced – and said jail was a possibility.

Death by dangerous driving pair in court

Two men accused of causing a fatal crash in the Sedgley by dangerous driving appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday. Michael Allen, aged 22, of Heath Green, Dudley, was driving a Honda Civic which crashed in Tipton Road, on April 8. Passengers Danny Eales, 24, and Tim Morris, 22, were killed and an 18-year-old woman was injured. Simon Skidmore, 24, of Tipton Road, Sedgley, was driving a Mazda RX7. Each faces two charges of causing death by dangerous driving.

They were remanded on bail to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on November 7. Mr Eales, of Gornal Wood, worked for Cannock-based ID Maintenance. Mr Morris, of Gornal, worked at Northway Auto Services in Lower Gornal.

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Repairs on cricket pavilion

Preparations are under way to restore Stourbridge Cricket Club's 1920s-built pavilion. Urgent works are being carried out to the pavilion at the club's War Memorial Athletic Ground, in Ambicote.

Around £33,000 in grants is being spent making repairs to the roof. The club has also taken the opportunity to fit solar panels.

Club spokesman Mark Ash-

bourne says they hope 90 per cent of the club's hot water and 40 per cent of its electricity will be created thanks to the new equipment. He said the move should allow them to keep membership costs down, match and room fees affordable, and have cash left over to spend on club equipment.

The club has secured £26,000 from the Cory Environmental Trust to help kick-start the

works. Repairing and strengthening joists and supports, restoring brickwork and re-felting the roof are among the works being carried out.

A second grant of £7,200 from the BRE Community Sustainable Energy Programme will help fund the costs of the club installing the energy-saving equipment.

Around £10,000 has already been spent on electrical rewiring.

Top award for Neil

A Dudley-born entrepreneur who quit his day job after wowing tycoons on Dragons' Den has scooped a top business honour.

Neil Westwood's Magic Whiteboard has won Small Business of the Year at the Hereford and Worcester Chamber of Commerce Awards.

His creation had the TV show's millionaires scrambling to part with their cash, and Theo Paphitis and Deborah Meaden took a £100,000

stake. The creation is a reusable sheet which can be stuck to any hard surface to form a whiteboard.

Stationery chain Staples stocks the whiteboard in all its 137 stores in the UK and sales have soared towards the £1 million mark.

Mr Westwood, aged 38, said: "It so exciting to win again. We now go forward to the national final in London. The judges were impressed with our growth figures."

Dates are set for changes to bus services

Changes to more than 30 bus routes running through the Wyre Forest area will come into force on September 4, as the county council struggles to save more than £60million.

A total of 28 bus services will be reduced and six will be axed completely, including the 334 Sunday service between Worcestershire Royal Hospital and Stourport, as transport bosses at Worcestershire County Council say they cannot afford to keep the "unviable" services going.

The cuts will save the cash-strapped council around £2.5million a year.

Transport chief Councillor John Smith urged people to check the new timetables in advance to avoid any confusion or delays.

"A number of routes right across Worcestershire, including in the Wyre Forest, will be different, whether that is because of alterations to subsidies paid by the taxpayer or decisions by operators," he said.

"I'd encourage everyone to check ahead before September 4 to see if any of the services they might use are changing."

Operators

He said some of the contracts were still under discussion with operators, but the website was being updated daily with the latest developments.

The county council announced it would be cutting its subsidies to bus companies from £4million to £1.5million a year as part of sweeping budget cuts designed to save between £60million and £70million by 2015.

Original plans to reduce bus services, including axing 72 routes altogether, were overhauled after overwhelming outcry from residents in the county.

Around 4,200 people responded during two public consultations earlier this year, with many saying they would prefer a higher number of reduced services and not as many being completely withdrawn.

Just 25 services now face the chop.

"What is important to stress is that there are still around 160 valuable services covering thousands of miles each week throughout our county offering an option when it comes to public transport," Councillor Smith added.

For more information on the new timetables, call the Worcestershire Hub on 01905 765765 or visit the website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/bustimetables

Pubs pull the plug on games

Pubs across the Black Country are to illegally screen Premier League football matches at their venues via cut-price TV network providers, it has emerged.

But others who were breaking regulations by showing games last season have decided to pull the plug on their foreign satellite suppliers following visits from enforcement agencies.

Games have been shown at The Neachells on Willenhall Road, The British Oak, also on Willenhall Road, and Tipton's Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory may also show matches.

Ian Evans, licensee of The Neachells, said the pub would show games via a cheaper European provider until they were told otherwise by Sky officials.

"We had a bloke from Sky come in and it was going to cost us £990 a month," he said. "We've instead got a rolling month-by-month contract with another provider for £250 a month."

Legally, pubs should not show Premier League games through any satellite provider other than Sky. But there is speculation a landmark case going through the European Court of Justice will rule that the live transmissions of football should be allowed.

Media Protection Service Ltd, which prosecutes on behalf of Sky, said it would continue to investigate screenings this season.

£6,000 by cycle trek

A group of Black Country police officers have raised £6,000 on a cycle trek from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The team nicknamed the Castle Wheelers originally hoped to raise £1,400 to buy two foldaway parent beds for the children's ward at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley. But they were shocked when donations totalled £6,000.

The officers are now planning to do the Coast to Coast ride next year. Contact the team on 0345 113 5000 ext 7901 6503.

Work-to-rule protest over planned pay cuts

Nursery workers claiming they face a 17.5 per cent pay cut have threatened a work-to-rule protest against a pay structure shake-up at Dudley Council.

It was revealed last month that 14 per cent, or 1,200 of the authority's 9,000 staff will be offered a reduced salary under the planned single status pay shake-up.

Some 350 employees are facing a cut of 15 per cent or more and council chiefs say more than half of that group are specialists working with vulnerable, ill and disabled youngsters across the borough.

Nursery workers in special schools say they stand to lose around £3,000 from their annual pay packet of around £16,000, and labelled the move "disgusting."

Bosses at the authority say they are discussing the matter with staff and unions and the plans are yet to be agreed, but some workers are receiving full-time pay for part-time work.

"If this goes ahead, we will start at the time our contract states and leave on the dot - no extra hours of preparation or tidying," said father-of-three Neil Pardoe, who has worked at The

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Brier School in Kingswinford for 15 years.

"We all work far more than the 32.5 hours a week we are contracted to, and would sign a 37-hour contract, but we haven't been given that option."

"We feel demoralised, devalued and de-motivated and the school year has ended on a very difficult note."

"It seems that after a long period of working with special needs children, all the skills, knowledge and extra qualifications we have gained are not deemed worthless."

Concerns

Mr Pardoe, aged 42, of Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford, and eight other nursery nurses at the school have raised their concerns.

Under the council's planned equal pay shake-up around 47 per cent of staff would keep their basic pay and 38 per cent would see an increase.

If the proposals are agreed the new arrangements will come into effect in April 2012.

The changes aims to introduce a equal pay for people performing different jobs at a similar level.

Witness plea after flooding at reserve

An appeal for witnesses has been launched after a Dudley beauty spot was flooded in an act of "mindless vandalism".

A pool at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett was flooded after a dam was opened by yobs on Thursday night last week.

Dudley Police and the council are now asking anyone with information on the attack to come forward.

Workers spent most of Friday clearing up the area and fixing a broken valve on the dam.

The Shed Shop in nearby Pensnett Road was flooded with piles of timber stock damaged.

Councillor David Stanley, Dudley Council cabinet member for environment and culture said: "The problem of flooding is caused by mindless vandali-

sm to valves on the pools. The responsibility of the pools is with British Waterways and they are on site now to carry out repair works and to look at a long-term solution to the problem.

"This is a serious issue and can not only cause flooding to one nearby business but it can also have an seriously adverse affect on wildlife, including numerous fish species."

Urge

Dean Davies British Waterways general manager said: "I am extremely disappointed that the actions of a few have caused such a major problem."

"I would urge anyone who does have any information to contact customer services on 01827 252000 or the local Police on 0845 1135000."

Tickled pink by stage show



Members of Pink Productions in Sedgley enjoying summer fun are, back Amy Harris and Mitchell Hannaford, middle, left, Molly Hammond and Stacey Killian, with, front, Maddison Ellis

YOUNGSTERS in Sedgley are taking to the stage for a unique rendition of Aladdin as part of a special summer school event.

The Pink Productions' holiday workshops are now in their fifth year offering young singers, actors and dancers the chance to showcase their talents.

The week long sessions started on August 15 at the Mill Theatre, on Millbank Road with a final performance tomorrow. Event co-ordinator Jodie Richards said:

"The summer school has proved to be a great hit with children over the summer but we invite parents and adults to join in too."

"We offer a range of genres of music and dance and there really is something for everyone with many added benefits for the youngsters who really enjoy getting stuck in."

The company, which taught One Direction singer Liam Payne, from Wolverhampton, has staged more than 30 productions over the years and hopes to attract even more stars this summer.

There are a limited number of places left, to book contact Jodie on 01902 682087 or 07763 847811. Alternatively, visit www.pinkperformingarts.co.uk for more information about Pink Productions.

Baby heart defect test may save lives

A simple test to measure blood oxygen in newborns could help identify babies with life-threatening heart problems, according to researchers from the University of Birmingham and Birmingham Women's Hospital.

Congenital heart defects occur in one in 160 births in the UK. More than 20,000 mothers and babies from throughout the West Midlands took part in the trial.

Midwives measured oxygen levels in newborns' blood via a small sensor placed on the skin of hands or feet. Babies with low oxygen levels soon after birth may be at increased risk of heart defects.

Current screening for heart defects involves ultrasound before delivery and examining all newborns in the first 24 hours after birth. However, these examinations often miss babies with serious heart defects.

Of 195 babies with an abnormal result following the test, 26 had a major congenital heart defect and 46 had other important problems which required urgent treatment brought to attention by the test.

The research was carried out in six NHS trusts covering an area including Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Warwickshire and Shropshire.

Feedback on new plans

Residents can offer their views on plans to transform Stourbridge with new homes and shops.

Bosses from Dudley Council have drawn up the Stourbridge Area Action Plan as a blueprint to help bring new investment into the town. The consultation is set to run until Monday.

Ideas which are being considered include creating a better shopping experience for visitors by making the town more pedestrian friendly. People can also view the plans at www.dudley.gov.uk/planning

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Plan to stop rogue traders

A new scheme to guard against cowboy businessmen is to be launched in the Black Country.

The first no rogue traders zone in Dudley will include more than 22,000 households in around Halesowen. The town has been picked as borough bosses say it is a hotspot for bogus callers and rogue trader activity.

Last year someone pretending to be water board officials tricked

their way into three elderly people's homes in Halesowen – making off with more than £1,000 from one property.

The project will be rolled out over the coming weeks but it is hoped it will eventually include the Halesowen north and south areas, Hayley Green and Cradley South, Belle Vale and Cradley and Wollescote.

Households in these areas will

receive information to help them identify who may be a rogue trader and a door sticker to help deter them. Signs will also be put up around the area to try and ward off any bogus callers.

The zones, which started to roll out this month, have been funded by safe & sound, Dudley's community safety partnership. To report rogue traders, call the hotline on 01884 812045.

Community clean up

A clean up of Dudley will see graffiti cleared, abandoned cars towed away and a fly-tipping removed.

A litter pick is also being organised as part of Operation Teamwork, to be launched in the town next week. The scheme, set up by safe&sound – Dudley's community safety partnership – aims to get people in the area working to improve their communities.

Teamwork set up camp in Clay-

croft Place, Lye, yesterday, at Valley Road Community Centre and at Claycroft Place community centre today, and at St Thomas's Network, Kates Hill, on August 23 and 24. There will also be football, basketball, a climbing wall and mountain bike obstacle courses.

Anyone who attends the sessions will be able to get advice about preventing burglary, and will receive a free property-marking kit.

Castle trust facing race to find £25,000

A trust is facing a race against time to find £25,000 by November to keep its hopes of buying a historic castle alive.

Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust will stage a meeting about how cash can be raised in time. The group lodged a £2.5 million bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund last week.

The aim is to secure the bulk of the money needed to buy the castle and its grounds.

A decision will be made on the bid in November and, if successful, the trust will then have to send a second more detailed application to the trust for final approval.

But as part of the bid, the trust is required to raise some money towards the scheme of its own and £25,000 needs to be in place in the next three months.

Members said some of the money had already been secured through donations and charity events.

Ensure

The group wants to buy the castle from the Church of England, to ensure the site stays open in the future. It was deemed surplus to requirement more than a year ago and the trust was originally given an exclusive option to buy it.

But talks broke down after the trust said the asking price and conditions were unrealistic.

Church officials decided to put the site on the open market but gave the trust extra time to raise the cash.

The trust is working to have all of the needed funding together in time for March next year – a month before the castle is due to go on the market.

Trustee Amanda Price said: "We have now received notification from the trust saying they have received our first stage bid."

If it buys the castle, the trust plans to turn it into an education centre.

Inquest verdict on man, 51

A father-of-two was tragically killed just minutes after sharing a night out with friends when his car was crushed by a falling tree brought down in strong winds, an inquest heard.

Coroner Andrew Haigh said musician Steve Cutler was "in the wrong place at the wrong time" when he died in the crash in February.

Mr Cutler, aged 51, from Kinver, was travelling on the A458 Bridgnorth Road, near Stourton.

South Staffordshire coroner Mr Haigh recorded a verdict of accidental death at the inquest at Cannock Coroner's Court.

Mr Cutler, of Hillboro Rise, died as a result of head and chest injuries on February 4. He leaves wife Alison and two sons Alex and Jack.

"Mr Cutler was quite clearly just at the wrong place at the wrong time," Mr Haigh said.

The inquest heard Mr Cutler had left home at 7.30pm to join bandmates for a rehearsal in Dudley.

He had stopped at The Lawnwood pub, Wordsley, before setting off back home along the Bridgnorth Road.

Winds of 60mph brought down the tree by the junction with Hyde Lane. Experts found the 140-year-old tree was dead and its roots could not support it.

Survey on health care

Worcestershire residents, including people from the Wyre Forest district, are being urged to have their say on the future of health-care for people aged 50 and over in the region.

A draft strategy has been drawn up by a partnership of regional organisations led by the Older People's Consultative Group. The document emphasises the importance of residents taking responsibility for their own health and well-being.

Questionnaires are available at GP surgeries, libraries and other public venues. Alternatively residents can have their say via the council's website www.haveyoursay.whub.org.uk

Plan includes cinema and department store

A major new department store and multiplex cinema will play a "key" role in a multi-million pound revamp of a Black Country town centre, it has emerged.

Tens of millions of pounds of investment and the creation of hundreds of jobs is hoped for under the Halesowen Area Action Plan. It contains proposals to knock down the popular but "outdated" Cornbow Hall, which hosts community events and music shows, and the adjacent multi-storey car park and replace them with a department store and a new car park.

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Mechanic is fined £2.4k over rubbish

A mechanic who dumped piles of rubbish outside a firm on a Black Country trading estate has been hit with a court bill of nearly £2,400.

Wayne Hodgkin, aged 41, left the waste two miles away at Cresta Blinds in Tetnall Street, Dudley. He denied dumping the rubbish, claiming someone had stolen it from outside his business as a "malicious act". But he was found guilty after a trial at Dudley Magistrates Court.

The court heard he had "offered no credible explanation" for the waste ending up there.

The patch of land was a "hotspot" for fly-tippers with about 10 fines handed out over the last two years, Dudley Council waste enforcement manager Hugh Murphy said.

Problem

Bosses at Cresta Blinds, based at the Crown Works estate, called the council after finding mounds of black bin bags containing household rubbish, documents and packaging for industrial materials. Some of the documents featured the address of Hodgkin's home.

He was interviewed by council waste enforcement officer Gary Tomlinson, who issued him with a £70 fixed penalty notice – which he failed to pay. Mr Tomlinson told the court that Hodgkin claimed he was not responsible for dumping the waste. But after hearing the evidence chairman of magistrates Mr Robert Ross said: "We are satisfied that he was responsible for the disposal of this waste."

The trial went ahead in Hodgkin's absence after he failed to turn up.

Hodgkin was fined £1,400, and ordered to pay £792 costs and £150 compensation to the council, along with a £15 victim surcharge – making a total of £2,357.

He was found guilty of handling or transferring controlled waste without taking reasonable measures.

Fancy dress run for Daniel



Daniel Grogan, aged 11, ready for his 23-mile running challenge where he will be dressed as a ballerina, with sister Eleanor, 15

An 11-year-old boy is running 23 miles in seven days to raise cash for charity – dressed as a ballerina.

Daniel Grogan, of Halesowen, is donning a tutu to support a children's charity that has helped his sister, Eleanor, aged 15. He kicked off on Sunday at the Clent Hills, and is running 3.75 miles each day at locations including Hagley and Halesowen until he reaches the finish at Arrow Valley Country Park in Redditch on Saturday.

Daniel's new school, King Edward VI Five Ways in Birmingham, has been asking pupils to do fundraising events during the summer, so he decided to put his fitness to the test – and thought the fancy dress would encourage more people to sponsor him.

He said: "It's quite a brave thing for a boy to do but I thought it would get people's attention, and at least it will mean I won't get too hot. I've been enjoying running and King Edwards is a sportsy school so it should show what I am capable of."

Money raised will go to Rollercoasters, which runs three-week play schemes for children like Eleanor with learning difficulties. To sponsor Daniel visit www.justgiving.com/sallygrogan1

Walk generates £10k for support group

A sponsored walk at a Midland beauty spot raised more than £10,000 for a breast cancer support group.

The five-mile Rainbow Breast walk around Bodenham Arboretum generated £10,155 – and the money is still rolling in.

More than 200 people turned out in pink T-shirts to take part in the event organised by the Rainbow Breast Reconstruction group, which meets at the White House in Ednam Road, Dudley. The group was founded by Denise Hudson and Deb Barnett, who met at a supermarket checkout and found they were both recovering from breast cancer.

Mrs Hudson said: "I got such a lot of good feedback from the walk. What I like about it is it's a family day and there's no restrictions, so men, women, children and dogs can all join in and I think that's what makes it such a lovely atmosphere."

Vet surgery to expand

A veterinary surgery in Dudley is planning to expand.

Bosses at Blacks Veterinary Group, based on Hall Street, have submitted proposals to build a large rear extension at the site to "increase the medical facilities at the practice." Plans submitted to Dudley Borough Council state that in the last few years the surgery has achieved hospital status, which is the highest standard of surgery as judged by industry chiefs.

To maintain that standard the facility must be continuously improved, which has prompted the need for the extension. The surgery offers a referral service to other veterinary surgeons in medicine, surgery and cardiology.

Open garden raises £713

More than £700 was raised for a cancer charity when a garden was opened to the public.

Pam Jarvie organised the fundraiser in memory of her late husband Neil Jarvie, who died of cancer in 2006.

Scores of visitors enjoyed tea and home-made cakes as they strolled around the garden, complete with orchard, chickens and a vegetable plot, at Bliss Gate in Rock, near Kidderminster.

Mrs Jarvie raised £713 for Cancer Research UK.

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Retired worker inquest

A retired electrician developed cancer after being exposed to asbestos during a construction project 30 years ago, an inquest was told. Delvyn Crockett, of Park Road West, Wollaston.

Mr Crockett, aged 65, died at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice on April 26. He had been diagnosed with the condition last August.

An inquest at Dudley Coroner's Court heard that a large tumour had formed on Mr Crockett's right lung and congestion had built up in his left lung.

Asbestos bodies were discovered during the post mortem.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain read out a statement which had been signed by Mr Crockett before his death.

He said Mr Crockett had not remembered being exposed to asbestos during any project he had been involved with during the 1960s.

But he had remembered a construction scheme in the 1970s where spray on asbestos had been used in the ceilings and floors.

Mr Balmain recorded Mr Crockett had died of an industrial disease.

Appeal for witnesses

Witnesses to a crash which left a motorcyclist dead in a village near Kidderminster are being urged to come forward. The smash happened at 6pm on August 9 near the Lock Inn in Wolverley Road in Wolverley and involved a black motorbike which was in collision with a black Hyundai car. The elderly couple in the car were not hurt. The motorcyclist was declared dead at the scene. He was in his 40s but has not been named by police.

Officers are keen to hear from a driver who was at the front of a line of traffic and who may have seen what happened. Anyone with information can call Force Operations Support Team on 0300 333 3000.

Jazz on offer

Veteran Stourbridge jazzman Bobby Johnson is launching his "Jazz" sessions at a new venue from next month. Bobby, aged 80, and his band will be playing at the Garibaldi pub in Cross Street, Stourbridge, on the first Sunday of the month, starting on September 4, from 1pm.



Duncan Buckley

Accident survivor praises medical team

A former Dudley web design tutor who is recovering from multiple injuries suffered in a road accident last year has praised the hospital staff who treated him.

Duncan Buckley, aged 34, has had to undergo 19 operations after the collision involving his MG and a Mercedes van.

His injuries on April 12, 2010 on the B4379 near Heath Hill.

Shifnal, included a fractured skull, three broken ribs, a broken collar bone and broken sternum. His lungs also collapsed and he suffered bruising to his heart. He lost eight pints of blood at the scene.

Mr Buckley, of Park View, Swynerton, Staffordshire, who then worked at Computeach, Dudley, was flown by air ambulance to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham. He

spent six weeks under sedation in an induced coma in critical care because his injuries were so severe.

"My miraculous survival has confounded many doctors and with the paramedic on scene only giving me a five per cent chance of avoiding fatality, even I have found it difficult to believe I came through," said Mr Buckley, who is now back at home.

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to those critical care staff that looked after me during those dark weeks. I also came under the care of Professor Sir Keith Porter and many armed forces surgeons whose brilliant medical knowledge saved my life."

Mr Buckley faces another two years of rehabilitation and has seven more operations to undergo.

Woman in benefit swindle

A mother-of-seven falsely claimed more than £42,000 in benefits by claiming her children still lived with her, a court heard.

Victoria Butler carried out the scam over three years, claiming carers' allowance and income support.

When she was found out in May last year, she had racked up £42,864 since the children moved out.

Butler, aged 41, of New Farm Road, Stourbridge, was given a 20-week jail sentence, suspended for 12 months and ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The court heard Butler began legitimately claiming carers benefit in 2000 and income support in 1994.

In 2007 she was no longer entitled to receive the payments, but kept claiming.

In a police interview Butler said she was left in debt after her partner left and needed the money for bills.

Judge Jonathan Gosling told her: "You stole a great deal of money and you could have been imprisoned for this offence."

"I think you have had a difficult life and I don't believe this was an offence of greed."

Butler pleaded guilty to two charges of failing to notify of a change of circumstances between August 2007 and May 2010. She was also ordered to undergo supervision from the probation service for 12 months.

New chief in jobs pledge

Tackling booze-fuelled crime is a priority for the new chief constable of West Mercia Police, he said.

Chief Constable David Shaw said he wanted to start campaigns across the force, which covers Hagley and Wyre Forest.

He aims to tackle night-time disorder.

He said: "In some of our towns and villages this has become a problem for residents and it makes them feel very uneasy."

Society ready for the show

A Brierley Hill dramatic society is getting ready to serve up the Edward Taylor comedy, "No Dinner for Sinners" next month.

The Community Players production will be staged at the Oakfield Centre, Bretell Lane, from September 7 to 10. Tickets, costing £6 or £5 for concessions, are available by calling 01384 394349.

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

They were entrusted with the delivery of Her Majesty's mail – but instead hoarded thousands of Christmas gifts, birthday cards and cheques bound for expectant homes throughout the Midlands.

Stupidity, curiosity, incompetence and greed were blamed for their indiscretions when the eight postal workers convicted of breaching the trust of employers and customers appeared in court this year.

Just one was jailed for their deception, along with an immigrant who secured a job as a postman despite a lengthy criminal record for dishonesty – and went on to steal while off-duty.

Peter Webb plundered jewellery, mobile phones, DVDs and greetings cards from mail meant for residents in Lichfield over four years. The 55-year-old was finally snared when Post Office investigators planted test packages on his round.

When one, containing a digital camera, was not delivered, Webb's home in Leyfields was searched and packets dating back to 2006 were discovered. Last week Judge Mark Eades jailed Webb for eight months, telling him he had "breached the contract the Post Office has with the public that a package will be delivered."

Damaged

Webb told his employers he had "been an idiot", while his lawyer Mr Rashad Mohamed said he had acted out of "curiosity".

The same excuse was offered by the counsel of Bilston postman Benjamin Bryan. He was told he had damaged trust in the Royal Mail after he was convicted of hiding more than 9,000 items of mail and opened packages containing electrical items.

Bryan was caught after bosses placed a tracking device inside a test package he was due to deliver which they traced back to the 23-year-old's home in Addenbroke Street, Darlaston. Police recovered a Sony Walkman and touch tablet computer worth hundreds of pounds following searches of Bryan's home and car. But Judge John Wait opted to suspend Bryan's six-month prison sentence for 18 months.

Deon McFarlane was fined £600 after being spotted opening a letter during one of his rounds. Investigators later discovered undelivered mail in his kitchen drawer.

The 33-year-old, of Junction Road, Stow Heath, denied theft and delaying postal packets but was found guilty by magistrates following a trial last month.

Both Shaun Maley and Hannah Moore-Kelly worked for the Royal Mail for a matter of weeks before bosses' suspicions were aroused. Maley, 21, was rumoured two months after starting in February while



Benjamin Bryan – six-month prison sentence suspended for 18 months for hiding a total of 9,000 items of mail

Moore-Kelly, also 21, lasted just six weeks. The pair hoarded thousands of items, recovered from Maley's car and Moore-Kelly's home, Maley, of Fuchsia Drive, Pendeford, but who worked in Halesowen, was struggling to keep up with his deliveries, the court heard. And Bilston-based postwoman Moore-Kelly, of Wells Road, Penn, was "out of her depth", her lawyer claimed.

Maley faces sentence later this month while Moore-Kelly was ordered to carry out 80 hours of unpaid work for her hoarding. Dudley postman David Spiers didn't even bother taking some of his undelivered post home – instead he dumped thousands of letters near Dudley Zoo.

The 31-year-old, of Park Moor Gardens, Dudley, was given a six-month sentence,



Hannah Moore-Kelly, ordered to do 80 hours unpaid work for hoarding letters that were supposed to be delivered



David Spiers – dumped letters near Dudley Zoo and was given a six-month jail sentence suspended for two years

suspended for two years, for dumping 6,385 letters and keeping another 4,654 items at his home. Glen Miller was a trusted veteran of 23 years' service. But the 44-year-old, of Scafell Way, West Bromwich, succumbed to temptation, stealing £40 after opening 18 packages.

Plundering

Miller, said to be suffering financial difficulties due to the break-up of his marriage, received a four-month prison term suspended for two years at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Marc Lawson was given the same sentence after plundering cash and gifts sent to Stafford delivery office. The 33-year-old, of Blythe Road, Stafford, stole hundreds of



Deon McFarlane, 33, was fined £600 after undelivered post was discovered in a kitchen drawer at his home



Glen Miller – stole £40 after opening 18 packages and received a four-month prison term suspended for two years

gift cards as well as DVDs and packages.

Meanwhile District Judge Wilkinson had some strong words for the Royal Mail after sitting in the case of Zydrunas Ksonas. The native Lithuanian was taken on despite having 26 previous convictions for dishonesty. The 44-year-old was hauled before the courts on two charges of theft.

Ksonas, of Leicester Street, Whitmore Reans, was jailed for eight weeks. District Judge Wilkinson said: "A person as dishonest as Mr Ksonas should not be working with Royal Mail when there is an ongoing problem of things going missing."

Ruth Barnes, spokeswoman for Royal Mail which employs 163,000 people nationwide, said bosses had a "zero tolerance approach to dishonesty."

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24 hour booze at garage

A petrol station will be able to sell alcohol 24 hours a day after councillors lost their fight to halt the plans.

Ward members Patrick Harley and David Blood said problems with anti-social behaviour would increase if booze was sold around the clock from the Snax 24 convenience store at the BP garage in Kingswinford.

They say drinkers would spill out of pubs at closing time and seek out the garage, in Dudley Road, to buy more drink to consume.

But Dudley Council's licensing committee decided to grant the firm permission to sell alcohol at a meeting last week. Councillor Blood said the council believed the application was not in the best interests for public safety.

"We know that when the Kingswinford village public houses have been closed serving, the mindless individuals would make the short trip up to this 24-hour petrol station and the resultant nuisance effect would be in our opinion be terrible," he said.

Councillor Harley added: "There are no other premises selling alcohol 24 hours a day in Kingswinford village and we just feel this is not the right place for these sorts of premises."

Solicitor Sabrina Khan, representing Snax 24 Ltd, said: "There have been no problems identified by police or any other relevant authorities about any anti-social behaviour linked with the petrol station."

Firm's pride on anniversary

A chartered surveyor in Dudley is celebrating 25 years in business.

John Emms Commercial first opened its doors in 1986 and specialises in commercial, industrial and retail property throughout the West Midlands.

The firm originally started in Wolverhampton Street and moved to its current offices in Stone Street in 1991.

Principal John Emms said: "Economic conditions in 1986 were challenging then, just as they are now."

"There have been highs and lows over the past 25 years and we have seen the economy in general, and the property market in particular, go through peaks and troughs."

"We pride ourselves on a forward looking approach coupled with consistency and maintaining high professional standards which our clients appreciate."

Season of jazz at historic venue

A series of jazz concerts will be held at a historic Black Country venue over the autumn and winter months.

All of the events will be held at the Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge and will be starting at 7.30pm.

The first concert in the programme will be a performance from Tim Aman and his band which will be on September 9.

Admission to all shows is £7.

Jobs lost at company

A Cradley Heath construction company has closed suddenly with the loss of 13 jobs. B-Trac Construction, based on Broadwyn Trading Estate, Waterfall Lane, went into creditor's voluntary liquidation while owing staff wages and rent to its landlord.

Workers were laid off with immediate effect and will be made redundant when the company is liquidated. Employees had been working on a

downstairs bedroom conversion for a disabled boy for Dudley Council and a project to split Smethwick's Cape Hill Primary School's hall into two classrooms, but were told to down tools before finishing the schemes.

Director Paul Banner said the company was unable to pay wages due to cash flow problems.

He said: "We had orders but no one was paying us any cash."

Residents hitting out at quarry 'nightmare'

Thousands of people living near a Kingswinford quarry claim their lives are being made a "nightmare" by workers ignoring restrictions on noise, dust and working hours.

A petition of residents living near Ketley Quarry opposing plans by WCL Quarries to extend opening hours and get permission to carry out other work at the site has attracted more than 2,000 signatures in just five days. Residents say they have been subjected to excessive noise, dust and mud being brought through the streets of the village.

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Ex-teacher jailed over child porn

A former teacher and church warden from the West Midlands has been jailed for possessing more than 860 indecent images of children.

IT and science teacher Robin Worrall, aged 60, from Smethwick, has been locked up for six months. Married Worrall worked at Great Barr's former Dartmouth High School, now Q3 Academy, and West Bromwich's George Salter Secondary School, now known as George Salter Collegiate Academy, before becoming a supply teacher in 1999.

There is no suggestion any of the photographs are of children from the schools at which Worrall had taught.

The court heard he had also worked as a church warden at St Mark's Church in Smethwick, where he is a member of the congregation. At Wolverhampton Crown Court on August 9, Judge Jonathan Gosling heard Worrall had developed an interest in pornography over the last 10 years which led him to use his credit card to buy incident images of children as young as 13 and view them on his home computer.

Police found 862 images of children, with more than 600 at "level one" and more than 250 at the more serious "level two" on a five-point scale. He was also found with almost 100 pornographic images involving animals.

Placing him on the sex offenders' register for seven years, Judge Gosling told Worrall the "revolting" images were his "dirty secret".

Dressed in a suit and supported by family in the public gallery, Worrall put his hand to his head when he was sentenced. He was disqualified from working with children for life. He had previously pleaded guilty to 10 counts of possessing indecent images.

Defending, Mr Simon Rippon said: "He was initially disgusted by these images but he went back to view more. He has asked himself how he could lower himself to such a level."

Mr Rippon said Worrall had voluntarily sought help from a foundation specialising in child abuse in a bid to tackle his behaviour.

College dishes up film

Catering students at Halesowen College have put their cooking and presenting skills to the test to complete a "Saturday kitchen"-style programme. They used local seasonal produce for the promotional film.

The media and catering departments came together to produce a programme where students were filmed creating two dishes. The film will be used to help promote catering courses

at the college following the opening of two new £400,000 kitchens.

Chris Hughes, catering lecturer, said: "It has been a very positive experience for both the catering and media students to participate in."

Stuart McConnell, senior teacher, said: "The media students found the project challenging but they were all extremely professional and the finished film looked great."

New welcome sign for town



The unveiling of a new Welcome to Lye sign with Keith Rowland from Dudley Council, winning artist Michelle Pugh alongside Councillor Angus Adams

A new sign welcoming people into a Black Country town has taken pride of place thanks to a resident's design.

People were invited to design the sign as part of a refurbishment scheme for Lye town centre.

Michelle Pugh from Wollescote created the winning design which features a horseshoe and nails, an anvil, a balti meal and Wollescote Park.

This has now been installed as part of the transformation of a shrub bed on the corner of High Street, Connors Way and Chapel Street into a paved

Mosque protest is growing

Objections against a new \$6million mosque in Dudley town centre have flooded in.

Almost 120 have been lodged with the council in the past 10 days opposing plans for a 69,050 sq ft mosque in Hall Street.

And volunteers have printed off hundreds of petitions and are gathering signatures in a bid to reach the 75,000 collected opposing previous applications.

Councillor Malcolm Davis, who is leading the "no" campaign, said: "The response so far has been just as strong as last time - people are as adamant as ever they were."

"There isn't enough parking being made available, and it will be too prominent on the historic Dudley skyline."

The loss of industrial land, increase in traffic and the need to preserve the town centre landscape are among the main concerns.

One resident of Crescent Road, Netherton, said: "This industrial site is urgently needed to get local people back to work."

Another living in Chestnut Avenue says: "I believe that this is the wrong development at the wrong time for Dudley town."

People have until August 24 to object. Dr Khurshid Ahmed, chairman of the Dudley Muslim Association, which is behind the plans, has said the scale of the building was reduced after listening to the concerns of residents raised in the past.

Website to list district events

A new website has been launched with details of community events across Worcestershire.

The Worcestershire Community Showcase website has been developed by the University of Worcester and the county council. Clubs, charities and voluntary groups can upload their events for free. The website lists organisers add and maintain their own entries, so the information is up-to-date for visitors. They can also upload pictures and connect to existing pages on social networking site.

Project lead Andrew Rothery said: "This website allows users to find a range of information about all sorts of clubs and societies in one place."

Visit the website at www.worcestershireshowcase.org

Quiz night to raise funds for Harriers

A quiz night aiming to raise vital funds for Kidderminster Harriers has been organised.

The event, at 7.30pm on September 8, has been organised by the club's independent supporters trust. It is in the Aggborough suite at Harriers' ground in Hoo Road, Kidderminster.

Cost of entry is £10 per team, with each team allowed five members. Entry is on a first come, first served basis.

Prizes will be on offer to the winners. Email Dave Pountney on dave.pountney@khist.org.uk or call 07872 915886 to book.

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Fresh appeal over mystery of 'Flossie'

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Police have made a fresh appeal to try to solve the mystery of a 92-year-old woman's disappearance 12 years ago. There has been no trace of Florence Cole, of St John Street, Netherton, since June 7, 1999.

Mrs Cole, known locally as Flossie, had no family locally and was last seen in Simms Lane three days before, walking towards St John's Church. Police carried out searches and inquiries and also made checks in the south of England where she used to go on holiday.



Mystery - Florence Cole

They also contacted a sister from New Zealand. Mrs Cole, who lived alone and was widowed, was 80 when she went missing after she was last seen by an acquaintance. She had been due to attend a medical appointment a couple of days later but failed to attend. Det. Sgt Corrina Griffiths, of Dudley CID, said: "We are now in the process of undertaking a review of the case. It is extremely unusual for a missing persons inquiry to go on for so many years, and even more uncommon for such an investigation to involve an elderly woman."

"We have no information to suggest that anything untoward has happened to Florence but equally we have no information to confirm she is safe and well."

Disappeared

She added: "When she disappeared, Florence did not take with her any means of support - money, clothes etc."

"We know that at the time she went missing, she was worried about a possible cataract operation, and she had lost her beloved dog."

Mrs Cole is white and was often considered to look younger than her years. She is 5ft 5in, slim and had black greying hair worn in a bun. She was last seen wearing a long black leather coat and gold coloured jewellery with an antique appearance.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Brierley Hill police station on 0345 113 5000 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

New president set



Vicky Perry is the new president of The Ladies Circle

A Stourbridge businesswoman has been named as the new national president of a women's organisation.

Vicky Perry, aged 37, from Wollaston, has just taken over the one-year post as the head of The Ladies Circle, a group for women between 18 and 45 who want to meet new friends. She now has a specially marked car to celebrate her new role.

Miss Perry says as well as raising the profile of the organisation she also hopes to raise funds for Parkinson's UK. She has already secured £3,500 towards her £20,000 target.

"I am delighted to take on the role," said Miss Perry.

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High-speed chase burglars are jailed

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Two burglars who led police on a high-speed chase through the Black Country which ended in a head-on crash have been jailed.

Nicholas Hodgetts and Darren Fitzpatrick had stolen more than £10,000 of watches and laptops from a house in Dudley before the chase.

Police followed their Subaru Impreza as it reached speeds of 60mph during the afternoon in residential areas in Dudley and Oldbury. Judge Jonathan Gosling said it was "a miracle" no-one was killed. He called it the worst case of dangerous driving he had seen without a death. Driver Hodgetts, aged 29, was jailed for four years and three months while Fitzpatrick, 26, got 26 months.

The Oldbury pair raided a house in Tansey Green Road, Dudley, after police had already tried to pull them over in Dixon's Green Road at about 12.30pm on April 20, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

They sped away from officers over a humpback bridge, before then being spotted again at about 2pm near Oldbury.

The Subaru smashed into the side of a stationary police car and mounted the pavement twice while leading the chase along Churchbridge and through the town centre.

It eventually hit an oncoming Ford Focus, said Mr Mark Preece, prosecuting. Two laptops, six watches, two cameras and a mobile phone were found in the car.

Mr Edward Barr, defending, said Hodgetts, who has a young daughter, had struggled with a drug habit but wanted to change his ways. And Fitzpatrick now wanted to "make good in society", the court heard.

Hodgetts, of Blakeley Hall Road, and Fitzpatrick, of Ashes Road, both pleaded guilty to burglary. Hodgetts also admitted two charges of dangerous driving and one of driving without insurance.

Fitzpatrick got 16 months for burglary and 10 months for breaching a 16-month suspended sentence he received in February last year for driving offences.

Appeal to find dog's owner



Kennel assistant Kate Hurley with the Jack Russell which was found in Wollaston

A Black Country vet is appealing for help in trying to trace the owner of a dog found wandering the streets. The dog had been found by the shops in Wollaston and appeared to be without an owner or with any sign of ownership.

Staff at AK Duncan Veterinary Surgery, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, say the brown and white Jack Russell cross was brought into them recently by a member of the public. His was microchipped but details were out of date.

Anyone who recognises the dog can contact the vets on 01384 393318.

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thechronicle

Council makes U-turn on one-way system

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A controversial one-way system in Dudley will finally be scrapped after months of campaigning by hundreds of residents.

Locals say the system in Parkway Road causes gridlock in the area and has made their lives "hell". Dudley Council transport chiefs have now agreed to make the street two-way again - but have warned the process could take months.

More than 400 locals signed a petition and even referred the issue to watchdog the Local Government Ombudsman.

They claimed they had not been consulted on the changes.

The road will be open to two-way traffic after the plans have been advertised to residents, the council's traffic manager Peter Vangeersdaele said.

He said: "The planned revocation of the one-way system in Parkway Road will be advertised in September to inform residents."

Consultation

The council launched a consultation last month and so far has had no objections to getting rid of the one-way system.

Parkway Road was made one-way in January after some residents complained it was being used as a rat run.

Queues are stretching along Grange Road, which joins with Parkway Road and runs from busy Salop Street.

Motorists who used to cut through Parkway Road to Himley Road now have to make their way further up Grange Road.

Bill Chambers, 75, of Fullbrook Road, wrote to the Ombudsman claiming the views of residents were not taken into account before the road was made one-way. "We have fought very hard against this and it looks like we have finally won," he said. "This was such a stupid thing to do in the first place - hardly anyone wanted this system but they went ahead and did it anyway."

"But we have made our voices heard and I am glad that at last they are listening."

Rare tigress waits for mate

Hujan the rare Sumatran tigress is settling in at West Midland Safari Park - and waiting for her toy boy hero to arrive to help her save their species.

The five-year-old, whose origins are in the Indonesian island of Sumatra, will soon be joined by Emas, a two-year-old male who will be moving to the park in Bewdley from Dublin.

The plan is for the pair to breed. There are fewer than 400 Sumatran tigers left in the wild.

Bob Lawrence, director of wildlife at the safari park, said: "While we all prefer to know that the Sumatran tiger still exists in their natural environment where they rightly belong, captive specimens are a vital safeguard in ensuring their continuing existence."

Hujan the Sumatran tigress gets used to her home at West Midland Safari Park and waits for her mate



Inquest opens on teacher, 62

An inquest has been opened into a teacher who died after being knocked down by a car while out walking with a friend.

Brenda Wilson, aged 62, of Meddins Lane, Kinver, was hit on the A458 Bridgnorth Road, Stourton.

The inquest at South Staffordshire Coroners Court was adjourned to await further investigations.

A date has not yet been set for when it will resume.

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thechronicle

Organ donor numbers increase

More than 47,000 people across the West Midlands and Staffordshire have signed up to become organ donors in the last 12 months.

It means there are now more than 700,000 people on the organ donor register in the region.

Hundreds of people across the Midlands are desperately waiting for life-saving organs due to a shortage of donors.

As a result, health chiefs have been

trying to encourage more people to register. Figures released this week by the NHS Blood and Transplant Organisation show that as of August 1 there were 709,861 people on the organ donation register living in the region. Some 47,048 of them had registered in one year.

A NHS Blood and Transplant spokeswoman said: "The fact that more than 47,000 people have registered is an incredibly positive step

and hopefully many more people will come forward and sign up so that even more lives can be saved through organ donation."

It is thought around 500 people in the region are waiting for an organ transplant and around 35 per cent are from ethnic minorities where there is a particular shortage of black and Asian donors. For more information call 0300 123 2323 or visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Reunion to raise funds for hospice

Ex-pupils from two Black Country schools can catch up at a reunion to raise cash for a hospice.

Anyone who attended Valley Road School in Lye and The Grange in Grange Lane, Stourbridge, are invited to the event which is being organised for October 28.

It takes place at The British Legion, School Road, Amblecote, and will raise funds for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Performing

Singer and keyboard player Mel Thomas will be performing along with hospice fundraiser and event organiser Jean McDonnell.

There will also be a raffle and a "name the dog" competition.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets including a buffet cost £7. Call 01562 720355 to book.

Janet Jones, at the hospice, said: "These reunions have been arranged for the last five years and are a great social event."

"Jean has worked tirelessly for the past year, organising the event in support of the hospice," she added.

FA coaching scheme is launched

A new football scheme is being launched in Stourbridge.

Trained coaches will be leading the football programme, aimed at getting more people active and interested in the beautiful game.

The project called FA Just Play will run at Red Hill School, in Junction Road, every Sunday between 12pm and 2pm.

It follows a summer of community football activities which have been running throughout the area.

Adults aged 16 and above can turn up for a kickaround with friends, or take part in UEFA B standard coaching courses at the school.

Sessions will take place on the school's all-weather pitches, costing £2.

As the weeks continue, a series of football tournaments may be organised depending on demand.

For details on the programme call 01384 894134.

Roman theme

A Roman-themed family day will be held at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley this weekend. The event, on August 20, will feature an archaeological dig, interactive talks and crafts. It costs £2.65. Call 01384 812750.



Esther Hall and Ben Atherton, both aged seven, with organisers of the football training scheme FA Just Play

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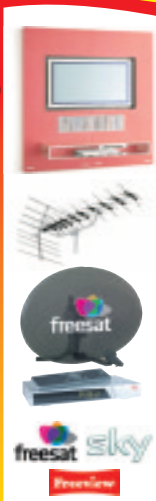
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thechronicle

Rugby-loving Josh on the road to recovery

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A teenage rugby player from the Black Country struck with a potentially fatal spinal condition is on the road to recovery thanks to a new therapy. Former Winsford High School pupil Joshua Creed suffered "excruciating pain" every day and even struggled to get out of bed each morning.

He was diagnosed aged 12 with a condition called scoliosis affecting just four per cent of the population. The condition causes a severe curving of the spine and, if left untreated, can lead to fatal heart and lung problems.

But now the 16-year-old is fighting back after using an exercise based treatment instead of a painful, invasive nine-hour operation.

"Having any sort of disability is hard but when it seriously affects your life and prevents you from playing a sport you are passionate about it really is soul destroying," said Joshua, who lives in Hartsde Close.

"I loved running around the fields playing rugby and although I would push myself to play, I would often suffer for it for a few days afterwards." Joshua was initially told that his spine was rapidly curving to the right.

Spine

The nine-hour operation is a procedure involving metal rods being inserted either side of the spine before the spine is fused solid.

The teenager, who lives with his parents Charlotte and Mark, aged 40 and 42 respectively, began searching for alternative treatments through the internet when doctors said he would be unable to continue with rugby and other contact sports if he had the operation. They heard about a non-surgical method called ScolioGold run by Erika Maude at her clinic called Scoliosis SOS based in London and Suffolk.

Joshua spent four weeks receiving exercise-based care from the clinic.

It involves a combination of physiotherapy, breathing techniques and trigger point therapy to elevate pain.

Joshua says he has made significant improvements. "There was a point that I really did believe that I would be in pain forever," he said.

"I now have the skills to control my own condition and that, for me, is priceless."

"I feel like I can get back to living life to the full, like any other normal teenager. I am looking forward to building up my fitness again and being able to play rugby again."

Project takes its toll



Artist Luke Perry with his sculpture showing a toll man vandalising the toll building in Rowley Regis

A massive art project along a four-and-a-half mile canal stretch from Sandwell to Dudley has been completed.

Luke Perry and his fiancée Natalie Gore have created 33 sculptures next to the Dudley No 2 Canal, ranging from 3ft to 6ft tall. Starting at Station Road in Old Hill and running to Blowers Green Bridge in Netherton, the £35,000 heritage trail also features 50-life-sized moorhens, which have also been sculpted out of steel.

Mr Perry, aged 27, of Wollaston, near Stourbridge, said: "It's been tough because the pieces are really varied but the whole project has been a dream to create." One of the mile marker sculptures is an image of a toll man at the toll building off Doulton Road, Rowley Regis, who has been fashioned as if he is vandalising the building, in a nod to artist Banksy. For more details visit www.dudleycanalart.com

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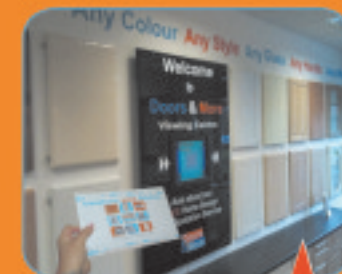
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thechronicle Private fostering costs rising

Private firms are being used to combat a shortage of foster carers in the Midlands - costing millions of pounds a year.

Councils are having to use private foster agencies as there are not enough of their own carers available.

But they are ending up shelling out more than double the salaries of staff they employ.

There are 121 youngsters in Dudley borough who are looked after by private foster agencies, costing the

council £3,546,066 in the last 12 months. There are currently 138 foster carers employed by Dudley Council but 12 children are waiting for a foster home at the moment.

The council has to pay private companies up to £500 more than someone who works for the council.

Council-employed foster carers get £400 per week. But private firms charge up to £900 a week, said Councillor Liz Walker, cabinet member for children's services. She said: "It is a

concern. The private agencies seem to think that money grows on trees."

Last year Staffordshire Council spent £6,536,903 on independent agencies. There are 177 children in private foster care at the moment in the county. The council employs 260 foster-caring households.

In Wolverhampton, there are 70 youngsters looked after by private firms, costing £2.1 million, while about 50 are waiting for a permanent foster home.

Waterside survey of insect life

Canal users across the West Midlands are being encouraged to take part in a national wildlife survey this month.

Experts say there will be plenty of insects to spot on the region's waterways and they are also hoping people can keep an eye out for any bats.

British Waterways wants people to tell them what wildlife they have seen and where they have seen them.

Each sighting recorded helps British Waterways' ecologists to preserve the biodiversity found on waterways. British Waterways' national ecologist Dr Mark Robinson said: "During August, the warm weather means insects are out in force and the fruits of plants are ripening fast. This makes the waterways an ideal nursery environment for a number of species."

"Bats will be taking full advantage of the bountiful canal insect harvest to build up enough fat to get them through the winter, as well as learning how to use their sonar and wings to navigate."

To take part in the wildlife survey visit: www.waterscape.com

New allotments are top of the plots

Gardeners are celebrating after the completion of the first allotments in the area where they live.

An overgrown field in Greenforge Lane, Stourton, has been transformed into 30 plots which have been taken on by local residents.

An independent committee was set up to look into the idea of providing a site after people approached Kinver Parish Council saying they wanted somewhere to grow fruit and vegetables.

It has proved such a hit, all the plots have now been filled and seven people are on the waiting list.

There has been a surge in people looking for an allotment with the credit crunch and soaring popularity of growing vegetables thought to be behind the trend.

The land, which Kinver Allotment Association rents from a farmer, has been given an overhaul thanks to funding from two memorial grants - totalling £3,000 which helped pay to get water onto the site and a £7,380 Awards For All lottery grant.

Kinver Parish Council also donated £400 to help with the clear up work.

To celebrate the work finishing, a barbecue was held at the site which used food which had been grown on the plots.



Members of the association celebrating the completion of work in Greenforge Lane, Stourton, are vice-chairman Nick Geoghegan, back left, fundraiser Margaret Rogers and chairman David Horton, with front, secretary Joan Jones, and allotment holder Marie Roberts

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Abbey development protest fails to get heritage support

Currying favour with footballers

Look for the bear necessities



Irene Priest, back left, and Kate Leach with, front, Alfie Leach, Craig Tromans as Mr Teddy, and Livi Bailey, from Wordsley, at the teddy bears' picnic

Families were given a big surprise as they hunted for teddy bears hidden around the grounds of a Black Country charity's base during a day of fun.

Youngsters and their families visited the Thomas Pocklington Trust, Stourbridge, last week. Staff and volunteers organised the teddy bear's picnic as a day of fun for children in the area and to raise much-needed funds.

Children were challenged to find a number of teddy bears hidden around the grounds of the Mary Stevens Centre, Hagley Road, where the charity is based.

Provides

Food and drink was also provided during the event along with a raffle and tombola for adults to enter. The amount of cash raised is still being counted. It will go towards the day-to-day running costs of the centre.

The charity provides support and activities for blind and partially sighted people in the area.

Volunteer Pamela Dowding said: "Events such as these are always well supported although the weather was more changeable than we would have liked. We would like to thank everyone who supported the picnic."

She said the trust held similar events throughout the year to bring in cash.

Shop raises RNLI funds

The Brierley Hill and Kingswinford branch of the RNLI raised more than £800 during a collection at a supermarket.

During two days of fundraising at Asda in Brierley Hill a total of £807.07 was raised.

Branch spokesman John Pittwood said: "The branch would like to thank the Asda staff and the donors, although this was slightly down on last year, this is a very generous collection in these hard times."

Policing team mark property

Two property marking events will be held for people in the St Thomas area of Dudley in a bid by the neighbourhood policing team to cut down on theft.

Officers will be at St Thomas's Network in Beechwood Road on August 24 and the Buffery Paradise Centre in Paradise Road on August 26 all day.

Volunteers for charity

A Dudley charity is looking for volunteers to work with vulnerable people. The Dudley Advocacy voluntary project is recruiting people to help the needy with day to day activities and act as confidantes.

Helpers will be required to make phone calls, pursue complaints and chat to vulnerable and disabled people. Full training is given and no experience is necessary. For more information, call Karen Jones on 01384 456877.

Wages cut plan debate

Plans to slash pay for more than 1,200 workers at Dudley Council will be discussed at a cabinet meeting next month.

A total of 1,260 people – 14 per cent of the council's 9,000-strong staff – have been warned they face reductions in pay, with some set to lose more than a quarter of their pay packet.

Campaigners have lost their battle over a £500,000 visitor centre at the 800-year-old Halesowen Abbey after it was announced that work would start later this year.

The abbey trust was hoping to defeat the plans by getting English Heritage on its side.

But instead no objections have been put forward – so landowner Chris Tudor is aiming to begin construction in the autumn. The plan – which was given the go-ahead by Dudley Council last November – also includes converting derelict barns into homes.

The trust had launched a last-ditch campaign by putting forward a 10-

page dossier against the plans. Members claim vital features and artefacts could be lost during the development. English Heritage has been accused of "washing its hands" by failing to support the campaign.

The trust was relying on persuading it to oppose the plans. But it said they would let "a greater number of visitors have a better appreciation" of the site.

Trust secretary Mick Freer accused English Heritage of showing a lack of interest in the abbey.

He said: "There is a picture of neglect and damage incompatible with the monument's designation and justifiable public expectations."

"That breakdown of confidence should be a matter of considerable

concern to those who hold responsibility. The site, whilst retaining its designation as a Monument of National Importance, has been seriously and irreparably devalued both materially and in public perception.

"If Halesowen Abbey was anywhere else but Halesowen you can bet that English Heritage would be pulling out all the stops."

An English Heritage spokesman said: "The ruins of the abbey are scheduled as an ancient monument and some of the farmstead is listed."

"The barns are in a poor state of repair and it is good news that the present owner is taking an active and responsible role in maintaining and finding a new use for them."

Two charity curry evenings at a Wall Heath restaurant have helped raise more than £1,500 for a football team based in the village.

Staff at the Alam International Restaurant in Albion Parade have handed over a cheque for £1,622 to the Kewford Eagles which was raised from ticket sales for the events as well as raffles and an auction.

The club is currently working on a project which will see 11 football pitches built on land adjacent to Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club in Wall Heath.

Lynn Boleyn, club welfare officer, said: "We have more

than 500 children playing for our club, including those with additional needs, as well as adult teams, and we have been working extremely hard since obtaining planning permission to raise the funding necessary for our project which will be a facility for the whole community to enjoy."

Raised

"We have already raised a substantial amount of around £500,000."

"We are extremely grateful to local people like Joe Uddin and Alan Emery at The Alam for their generosity in giving something back to the community."



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Joining the teddy bears' picnic at Huntingtree Park, Halesowen, are Taylor Poole, six, with his teddy Polley

It's furry fun at the teddy bears' picnic

Families were "sure of a big surprise" when they visited a Halesowen park for a teddy bears' picnic. Around 300 people attended the fun day organised by staff at the Tenterfields Children's Centre. Youngsters brought their teddies along and were able to enjoy face-painting, stories and singing.

There was also a magician and a balloon modeller to keep families entertained at Huntingtree Park. Children could also enjoy summer craft activities and there were free ice-creams for the under-fives. Jo Smith, a family support worker at Tenterfields, said: "It was a super day. We had about 300 people turn up because the weather was so good. There were a lot of teddy bears and everyone had a good time."

Tenterfields Children's Centre, based at Tenterfields Primary School, offers a wide range of services for children under five and their families. Among the services on offer are stay and play sessions and a baby club.

Brewery is to offer bed and breakfast

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Visitors to a Black Country pub won't have to worry about the journey home any more as one of the area's most successful micro-breweries has had £40,000 plans for guest rooms approved.

The first floor flat above the Windsor Castle Inn, Stourbridge Road, Lye, which also houses the Sadler's Ales brewery, will now be revamped and turned into three bed-and-breakfast-style rooms.

Two existing bedrooms will be given en-suites, with a separate shower room and access into the hallway under the scheme costing up to £40,000.

The plans, put forward by brewery owner John Sadler, were submitted to boost trade – and will create at least two jobs.

"We are very, very pleased these plans have been approved, it's great news for us and great news for our visitors," he said.

Christmas

"We are now getting quotes in and hope to start work in three or four weeks' time, getting everything up and running by Christmas."

"The aim is to get the rooms to a four or five-star standard, with high-class bathrooms, so it will take a bit of work."

Mr Sadler said the move had been in response to demand from customers who visit from all over the country and often ask for accommodation.

"We know the demand is there as we are always being asked," he added.

Sadler's was founded in Oldbury in 1900 by Mr Sadler's grandfather, Thomas Sadler. It ceased production in 1927 but was relaunched seven years ago.

The business recently received a thumbs-up from supermarket giant Sainsbury's, shaking hands on a deal for 20,000 bottles of its Worcester Sorcerer Ale, due to hit the shelves in September.

The deal, part of a national competition, will see the ale go on sale for six weeks alongside 15 others from across the country.

If it is chosen as one of the winners of the competition, it will receive an order from Sainsbury's for a total of six months.

Apprentice star in frame



Melody Hossaini at Merry Hill Shopping Centre with Ellie Daffern and Jack Hopkins

Staffordshire entrepreneur and star of this year's *The Apprentice*, Melody Hossaini, has described her time on the show as "the most highly pressured" period of her life. During an event at Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre, the 26-year-old businesswoman said her stint on the popular BBC show had also given her youth consultancy firm InspireEngage Ltd a valuable leg-up.

"It was an amazing experience, but it was hard as I had never worked in that kind of corporate environment before," said Iranian-born Miss Hossaini, from Great Wyrley, near Cannock. "It was tough and it has been very up and down, but through difficult experiences we learn a lot."

Melody was at Merry Hill to promote a new Nivea "closeness" campaign.

Charges for parking at hospital rise

Patients and visitors will have to pay more to park at Dudley's three hospitals after fees were increased for the second year running.

Charges have risen by up to eight per cent, which means it now costs £5.40 to park for more than three hours – up from £5.

The new prices have been introduced by Interserve, the private company which runs the car parks at Russells Hall and the Guest hospitals in Dudley and the Corbett in Stourbridge.

One councillor has already attacked the rises.

Hospital bosses said they were "disappointed" that charges had been increased again since August last year but said people would still be able to park for free for 30 minutes.

Patients receiving treatment on three or more occasions per week in the oncology and renal units would not be charged, they said.

The increases have come under fire from Dudley councillor Bryan Cotterill.

He has previously campaigned for fees to be dropped.

He said he was "appalled" by the decision adding: "It just doesn't seem fair that sick people are being charged to visit hospital. It just seems immoral."

The cost of one hour's parking has gone up by 10p to £1.30. The new fee for one to one and a half hours has also increased by 10p to £1.90.

Review

While the cost of parking between one and a half and three hours is now £3.20 – up from £3.

Dudley Group of Hospitals chief executive Paula Clark said: "We are disappointed that Interserve has decided to increase parking charges for our patients."

"We recognise that our PFI partner is entitled to review parking charges annually as part of their contract and they have, in the past, managed to keep the charges down."

No-one at Interserve was available for comment.

Charity psychics night

A night of celebrity mediumship has been organised in Dudley for a charity. The event will be held on Friday at the Station Hotel in the town and will feature an award-winning psychic medium, Lady Snake. Oldbury-born Dave Williams who is currently filming for Channel 4, and Elizabeth Lee-Crowther, one of the UK's top pet psychics.

Tickets for the event which starts at 7pm are £6 or £12.50 with a vigil and mini ghost hunt in the hotel cellars from 10pm onwards. All proceeds raised from the event will help raise funds for a support group for mothers affected by GBS an infection which can affect new-born babies. There are only 25 tickets for the mini ghost hunt. Call 07967 944755.



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- Sat 3rd 10 am - 2 pm

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Scarborough & York - Grand Hotel

The classic seaside resort of Scarborough has a great range of attractions including beautiful walks, a lake and excellent harbour and beautiful park. The Grand Hotel sits majestically overlooking the town. Features include a cabaret room with entertainment on all nights.

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See Torquay with its superb coastline, attractive harbour and wide range of cafes, restaurants and bars.

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- Included excursions:**
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5 Days • 4 Nights:
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Jersey • Norfolk Lodge Hotel

Jersey boasts miles of soft sandy beaches and secluded coves. The Norfolk Lodge Hotel has an indoor pool and is set in one of St. Helier's best residential areas.

5 Days • 4 Nights:
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Guernsey • L'Eree Bay Hotel

Sparkling seas, golden sands, rugged cliffs, picturesque harbours and fascinating countryside await the visitor to Guernsey. L'Eree Bay Hotel is set approximately 50 yards from a beautiful sandy beach

5 Days • 4 Nights:
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Enjoy the un-spoilt beauty, scenic splendour, impressive mountain ranges, moorland and miles of golden beaches. Fascinating itinerary:

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- Day 6 - Ullapool
- Day 7 - Return home

7 Days • 6 Nights: 19 September from £549.95



Brighton • Royal Albion Hotel

The Regency resort of Brighton has a unique atmosphere. There are a wide range of antique shops, selection of good restaurants and a lovely sea front. We stay at the Royal Albion Hotel. This beautiful style building stands directly opposite the pier.

- Included excursions:**
- Arundel & Worthing
 - Lewes

4 Days • 3 Nights:
26 August from £159.95



Isle of Wight - Shanklin

Shanklin boasts a long sandy beach which lies at the foot of spectacular cliffs. We stay at the Langham Court Hotel. This is set minutes from the sea front.

- Included excursions:**
- Half day visit to Godshill
 - Full day tour of the Island's coastline

4 Days • 3 Nights:
26 Aug & 16 Sept from £129.95



Weymouth Weekend

Enjoy a stay at the glorious resort of Weymouth. The Norfolk Hotel is beautifully situated on the Esplanade with wide views of Weymouth and the Dorset

2 Days • 1 Night:
27 August from £59.95



Isle of Wight • Carlton Hotel, Sandown

Experience the Isle of Wight and stay at the Carlton Hotel, Sandown. This enjoys a seafront location and regular evening entertainment.

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Optional Island Explorer excursion - £7.50 pp

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Eastbourne offers spectacular coastal scenery and countryside. It is famous for its flower decked promenade and gardens, beaches and excellent facilities.

- Included excursions:**
- Brighton • Hastings & Rye

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The Windsor Hotel is centrally situated on South Parade at Whitley Bay.

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- Seahouses - with chance to see the remote Farne Islands
 - Bamburgh - where the castle looks over to the sea
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 - Visit to Newcastle and Tyne-mouth
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5 Days • 4 Nights:
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Special Offer: Book both excursions for just £30pp

5 Days • 4 Nights - 05 Sept & 10 October from £199.95



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See the world's most enchanting city and discover the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and Arc de Triomphe. On day 2 an optional Paris excursion taking in the main sights and on day 3 a visit to Versailles.

3 Days • 2 Nights:
16 September, 21 October from £129.95, 11 November from £99.95

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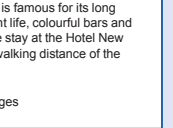
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Family man assaulted by cyclists

A man was assaulted after exchanging words with two bikers who nearly collided with his children as they walked along a canal towpath.

The victim, who has not been named, suffered cuts and bruises to his face following the attack near Holly Road, Stourport.

He had been walking with his wife, three children and dog when two men rode past on yellow bikes.

The victim spoke to them after they nearly hit the youngsters. He was then assaulted by the pair before they rode off towards the Bird in Hand pub at 7.30pm on July 31.

Both men were white and thought to be in their late teens or early-20s.

The first is described as having short dark blonde hair, around 6ft in height and has a tattoo on the right side of his neck saying RIP. The second had short blonde hair, was of stocky build and wearing a blue T-shirt.

To help call 0300 333 3000 or 0800 555 111.

Roadshow on TV switchover

A series of roadshows are being held in Dudley town centre to help residents with the digital television switchover.

The Sutton Coldfield transmitter, broadcasting to the homes in the Central region, will switch to digital in September.

Switchover advisers will be visiting the borough, offering advice and help about how to get ready for digital TV. They will be based at Dudley Market Place on September 7, 8, 21 and 22 between 9am and 5pm.

Pub is forced to close over noise complaints

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A pub will be forced to shut for three months after residents complained of a spate of late-night discos, loud music and customers drinking outside its entrance.

Residents called in police and council enforcement officers numerous times in the past two years to the Painters Arms pub, in Coseley. Pamela Lawrence, who has lived nearby for 10 years, compiled a diary of the disturbances saying she had "felt like a prisoner in her own home".

"I have been worried at the beginning of the week about what could be going on at the pub the following weekend," she said.

"It is an unpleasant position and situation to have been put in."

Around 27 complaints were made by families living near the pub, in Avenue Road.

These concerns centred on music being heard playing past its 11pm curfew and people drinking alcohol outside its front entrance.

Breaching

Residents and Dudley Council also alleged discos encouraging dancing and karaoke nights had been held breaching its recorded music only licence.

Dudley Council's licensing committee agreed to suspend the premise licence for three months last month.

Committee chairman Councillor Julian Ryder ordered landlord Graham Watkins to comply with a series of conditions.

He will have to fit a noise limiter to the pub's jukebox stopping it exceeding decibel limits and improve soundproofing to windows including a number of skylights.

Councillor Ryder said residents had "valid complaints" about noise levels and general disturbance.

Speaking at the meeting, Dudley Council officer Dolores Nellany claimed the pub had not heeded numerous warning letters and visits by police.

Mr Watkins claims problems have been caused since smoking was banned. He said: "We are constantly telling people to come back in and not take their drinks out to the front when they go outside to smoke." His solicitor said he disputed some of the incidents in Mrs Lawrence's diary.

You're my type - Fiona designs her own font



Graphics student Fiona Clarke with some of the letters she designed while attending Halesowen College

A CREATIVE student from Brierley Hill has tapped out her own typeface and is already seeing success for the future.

Fiona Clarke, who studies graphics at Halesowen College, uploaded her collection on to www.dafont.com and has already received more than 27,000 hits. The 18-year-old hand drew each letter,

number and symbol into special software that allowed her font to be typed out.

Fiona, who has named her creation "Do you like my font, Andy?" after asking a friend for his opinion on a name, is now going on to study graphics at Birmingham City University to develop her project further. Gillian Dunkerley, graph-

ics course leader at Halesowen College, said: "Fiona is a treasure trove of creative ideas and is highly skilled in both illustration and graphics."

"Like many of our students she uses the computer as an everyday tool to develop and finalise her initial concepts, it is just like a posh pen to them."

Trains to get extra carriages

More than 3,000 extra spaces are to be created on trains running through the West Midlands.

Under a deal funded by the Government, four extra carriages are being created on London Midland routes.

The move will allow the company to bring in more services at extra times.

It will see around 900 extra spaces being created on the Stourbridge to Snow Hill line, while routes from Walsall, Hereford and Shrewsbury to Birmingham New Street will see just over 1,000 extra spaces created.

Leamington Spa and Stratford trains into Snow Hill will also benefit.

Managing director of London Midland Mike Hodson said: "We welcome this announcement from the Department for Transport which will create 3,276 extra spaces for commuters on our morning and evening services across the West Midlands region."

Cycle appeal

Cyclists in the Wyre Forest district can donate unwanted bikes to a charity which provides training for young people.

Motov8, based at Gregor's Mill Street, Worcester, takes in old bikes and restores them so they can be sold on. It also carries out servicing on cycles still in use. Call 01905 619068.

Court for sale

The former Halesowen Magistrates Court building has now been put up for sale.

The courthouse in Laurel Lane closed at the end of March as part of £41 million cost-cutting measures.

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thechronicle

Am-dram group is revived for church

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

An amateur drama group has been revived after more than 30 years to help raise cash for a church restoration.

The New Johnians are looking for people with a passion for acting, set design, lighting and costume to get involved and help them stage future productions.

An open evening will be held on August 16 for potential members to meet the director and find out more about the group.

It will be held at St John's Church drop-in centre, Kates Hill, Dudley, where people will get the chance to join the group.

Future meetings will be held on Tuesdays between 7pm and 9pm once the group is up and running. Actors of all abilities are needed and no previous experience is necessary. Writers from the region are also invited to join and get the opportunity to see their work performed.

The aim of the group is to tell the stories of people from the Dudley area with an emphasis on the town's history. Members want to tell about the lives of the people buried in the church's graveyards and what the area would have been like at the time.

Festival

The group's first production will be a short play to be performed at the Tipton Boat Festival in September. Full stage productions will begin early in the New Year.

The original group, called The Johnians, formed in the 1940s and ran until the 1970s. It performed a variety of plays from light comedy to serious drama.

A decision to revive the group was made to help raise cash needed for the restoration of St John's Church.

It will cost £150,000 to get the building open and another £700,000 to restore it completely. Members of a preservation trust have been working for years to get the site returned to its former glory.

Funds raised by performances of the drama group will go to the restoration fund. Anyone interested in taking part is asked to call 07954 692593 or 07522 184461.

Director Phill Liptrot said: "When I first got involved in this group and heard some of the stories of people buried in the graveyard at St John's I could not help but be fascinated," he said.

"I thought people should hear these stories and what better way to tell them than putting them on stage. It would be wonderful to get people from the area involved as it is their history which is being revived and relived."

Vintage vehicle show



Neil Bishop, from Stourport, with the Black Country at War Display Society's CAN-AM motorcycle which was used by the SAS on secret operations

Up 5,000 people visited the annual Trimpey Steam and Vintage Rally in Bewdley.

Visitors were able to get close to about 500 cars, lorries, tractors, engines and motorcycles.

It is hoped the venture has raised more than £5,000 and all money will go to charities, including the Midland Air Ambulance. Members of the Black Country at War Display

Society also took part, raising around £60 for Help for Heroes.

As well as being able to examine the vehicles, visitors got the chance to look around trade stalls and watch the annual Forest Dog Rescue Show.

The rally was organised by David Spruce of Bridgnorth Vintage Machinery Club which is celebrating its 25th year.

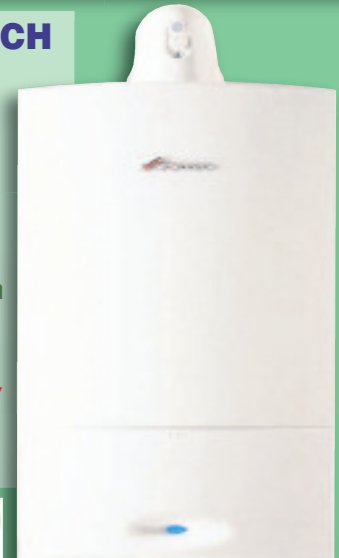
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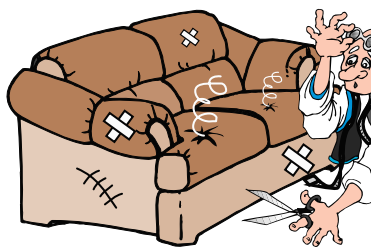
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Josh's set for African adventure



Ghana bound - Josh Bentley, aged 21

A Midland student has been chosen to help build an orphanage in Ghana - and is appealing for donations.

Josh Bentley, aged 21, will take part in the community project run by Birmingham City University.

He has been given a £1,500 budget for his work in the poverty-stricken village of Kwahu but wants to take over clothes and mosquito nets for the children.

Mr Bentley, of Lancaster Road, Bewdley, hopes to raise as much money as possible to help the youngsters there.

He was chosen by staff on his accountancy course who thought he

was the man for the job. On September 1 he will join other volunteers from across the globe for two weeks, before returning to study the final two years of his degree.

He said he was looking forward using his DIY skills on the project. He added: "I'm thrilled to have been chosen - it's something I wanted to do after my course so I'm really excited."

"I just want to help them out as much as possible but I'm finding it difficult to get donations at the moment."

To donate money or equipment email Mr Bentley: josh-bobb-bentley@hotmail.co.uk

Fun and
games at
museum

Visitors to the Black Country Living Museum can find out what men, woman and children did in their spare time 100 years ago this month.

A programme of craft activities will run at the venue throughout August which will include a family trail where people will be challenged to discover letters around the site to find out about Black Country life and leisure during 1850 and 1950. Families can also learn how to entertain themselves in the way that children of the 1930s would have done.

Mel Weatherley, head of learning said: "We chose the do-it-yourself leisure theme this summer to bring to life not only the hardship but the team spirit and creativity of the families that once lived and worked in the Black Country."

"We are hoping that the hands-on toy making workshops, family trail, heavy metal workshop demonstrations, street theatre and costumed guides will all inspire our visitors with the same creativity and can do."

Charity walk is just the ticket

A dozen bus drivers walked the streets of the Black Country to raise money for a hospital.

The colleagues, joined by family and friends, traced the eight-mile 246 bus route from Dudley bus station to Stourbridge town centre to help raise money for the children's unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

It was organised by driver Dave Gerrard, aged 67, who is based at Pensnett depot, and he persuaded his colleagues to get involved. "It was tough going but we all enjoyed it," he said. "It was worth the sore feet for the money we have managed to raise," said Mr Gerrard, who lives in Ambecote and drives on a number of routes around Dudley.

They managed to complete the walk in just over two hours, and it is hoped they will raise just over £1,000. The money raised will help pay for overnight beds needed for parents to stay with their children when they are poorly.



Dave Gerrard and Scott Bobberley with other bus drivers embarking on the eight-mile trek from Dudley to Stourbridge

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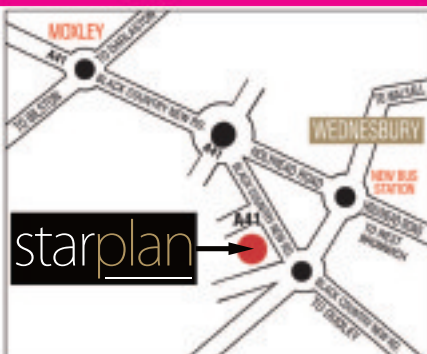
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Wartime maps up at auction

Maps revealing plans to bomb targets in Dudley and Walsall during the Second World War will go under the hammer at auction.

Targets marked by the Nazis include chain manufacturers in Cradley and canals around Walsall town centre. The historic hoard, which had been held in an Austrian library, was captured by a British spy in the dying days of the regime.

Four maps, which are taken from old Ordnance Survey copies, show targets around Walsall including Atlas Seals and the Victoria works in Aldridge. Around five other maps earmarked Cradley railway station and the Stourbridge canal.

All have been highlighted with a legend down one side giving pilots landmarks to look out for. All the names are written in English but there are German instructions on the top of sides.

The collection belonged to the former spy who has died. It could fetch more than £200 when it is sold by Mullock's Auctioneers at Ludlow Racecourse on August 18. Auctioneer Richard Westwood-Brookes said: "It is certainly a chilling feeling looking at one of these maps."

Student crusaders win top awards

Campaigning students at Dudley College are celebrating after scooping two awards for their achievements.

The college's students' union secured a double win at the annual National Union of Students Awards Ceremony, which took place in Leeds. The awards recognise excellence in the student community, highlighting the achievements of students' unions, individual students and student media from across the country.

The Dudley group won in the category for further education students' union of the year and president, Kim Hughes, won in the category of unionist of the year.

The union has run several high profile campaigns this year including one to save the educational maintenance allowance which was given to students to help with issues such as transport but has been axed.

Dudley College union president, Kim Hughes said: "I am absolutely thrilled that the students' union and I won. We have had a fantastic year even in the light of the challenges that we have faced."

"The executive team worked extremely hard and were absolutely inspirational; this motivated me to continually strive to do more for the union."



Kim Hughes with fellow student union pals Darryll Garland, Emma Coles, Mat Stevenson, Rahimullah Akbarzai, Wesley Whittick, Sophia Daly and Julia Gough

Casual workers cost council £2.5m

Schools in Dudley have spent more than £2.5million recruiting and paying supply teachers and temporary staff during the past 12 months, figures revealed today.

Casual workers were used to cover sickness absences and maternity leave to ensure pupils did not miss vital lessons.

Some of the borough's 90 schools also employed agency staff to help with exams and recruitment.

The money paid out during the 2010/11 financial year also covered the cost of staff brought in to supervise exams as well as sports coaching and stationery supplies.

Dudley's seven special schools spent £284,266 while the borough's 63 primary schools spent £1,506,592.

The bill at the 20 secondary schools came to £1,165,985.

The figures have been released by education bosses at Dudley Council

under the Freedom of Information Act. Individual schools are responsible for making their own staffing arrangements including the hiring of temporary workers.

Cabinet member Councillor Liz Walker, said: "These costs do not simply relate to supply teacher posts. Schools may also use this budget code to cover costs for other work, such as stationery and agencies working on behalf of schools on recruitment."

thechronicle

THE WAY I SEE IT

Right on smoking ban but wrong on booze law

I've been out recently delivering our latest InTouch leaflets and speaking to the many residents who have been out in their front gardens enjoying the best of the weather.

I also supported Dudley Stroke Association's open day - you can find out more about the DSA's important work in our borough via www.DudleyStrokeAssociation.org.uk - and attended the Police and Communities Together (Pact) meeting at Kingswinford Community Centre, which saw a strong turn-out.

The Pact meeting confirmed my long-standing belief that Labour's relaxation of licensing laws has been a complete and utter disaster. Not everything Labour did in office was wrong - for example, I wholeheartedly support the smoking ban - but, on licensing, they got it completely wrong.

The continental café culture - where people take their time over a leisurely drink - which cosmopolitan Labour politicians dreamed about upon returning from their south of France holidays never materialised here in the UK.

Instead residents' quality of life has been dramatically affected, often directly in proportion to how close they live to a hot-spot of licensed premises.

We have some lovely, family-friendly independent pubs and restaurants in Dudley South but we also have some establishments which are not good neighbours to the local community.

At the Pact meeting several residents spoke of feeling trapped inside their homes late on Fridays and Saturdays, fearful of what damage might be done to their fence, garden or roof tiles when empty glasses are flung skywards.

Enough is enough. I would support the wholesale reversal of Labour's licensing laws and will be pressing for this in Westminster on behalf of my residents.

You may have heard that the Government has launched epetitions.direct.gov.uk. I have added my support to the petition to restore capital punishment (epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/138).

If you live in Dudley South let me know whether you agree with me on capital punishment or not (you can email me at office@dudleysouthconservatives.com).

If you don't agree with me why not create your own petition - those which receive more than 100,000 signatures will be eligible for debate in the House of Commons.

Expenses

Expenses watchdog, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, recently published the pay and expenses of MPs since the general election.

I am pleased to report that I was amongst the very lowest claiming MPs in the whole country.

This was certainly not to the detriment of constituency work - since May 2010 I have dealt with and answered thousands of emails, letters and phone calls from constituents, held dozens of constituency

advice surgeries at community centres across Dudley South and attended hundreds of constituency engagements and meetings (see www.dudleysouthconservatives.com/flickr).

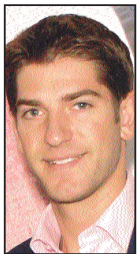
I have long campaigned for transparency in the use of public money.

Prior to my election I promised the people of Dudley South I would treat taxpayers' money with respect as I have always treated funds in my family business.

I am determined to stick to my promise to my constituents by being a low claiming MP. To that end I only claim for:

1. the cost of driving (mileage and the central London congestion charge) between the West Midlands and London.
2. evening meals on a tray from the canteen in Parliament when the House of Commons sits beyond 7.30pm and I am unable to cook an evening meal for myself.
3. modest costs for accommodation in London (no

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views on issues that matter



claims for accommodation were made during my first five months in Parliament).

My office in Netherton only claims for second class postage and, in September 2010, claimed £199.30 for a four-drawer filing cabinet.

No claim is made at taxpayers' expense for rent or telecoms, including phone calls and broadband, for my Netherton office (these charges are met by Dudley South Conservatives through fundraising).




Declaration

I am a fully resident UK taxpayer and earn £65,738 per annum (before tax) as Member of Parliament for Dudley South.

For more details of my income and expenses, plus my declaration in the Register of Members' interests, please visit www.tellChris.com/Expenses.

It is a huge privilege to do this job and represent my home area in Parliament. My focus is, was and will continue to be my constituents in Dudley South.

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175/70TR14 Bridgestone B250	£70.23	£130	£250	175/70TR14 Avon ZTS	£53.34	£99	£190	175/70TR14 Budget	£39.43	£70	£130
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185/65HR15 Bridgestone ER300	£85.64	£160	£310	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£62.59	£115	£220	185/65HR15 Budget	£45.48	£85	£160
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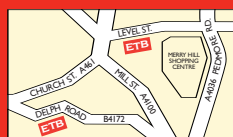
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205/55VR16 Bridgestone ER300	£88.41	£165	£320	205/55VR16 Avon ZV5	£74.38	£140	£270	205/55VR16 Budget	£55.37	£101	£190
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Adventure Island 1: The Mystery of the Whistling Caves

– Helen Moss (Orion Children's Books, paperback, £4.99)

THE spirit of Enid Blyton's The Famous Five and The Secret Seven lives on in this, the first of a new series of adventures featuring Scott, Jack, Emily and her dog Drift.

A summer trip to Cornwall's Whistling Caves poses the question why has the cavern fallen silent. The old legend that such an occurrence will place the nearby castle in peril seems to come true when a priceless ancient shield is stolen from the museum.

But don't worry, our young investigators are on the case, and they soon will be again in The Mystery of the Midnight Ghost.

It's great to have this Worcestershire-raised author creating a new bunch of pesky kids to stop wrong-doers in their tracks, and they are more savvy than Blyton's young heroes. After all, they live in the age of pop music, computer games, celebrities and theme parks. But, not so deep down, they are still made of the same old good stuff. Spiffing, ahem, I mean, wicked.

The Smurfs: Movie Novelization – Stacia Deutsch and Rhody Cohon (Simon and Schuster, paperback, £4.99)

The Smurfs are back in a big way. The popular little blue and white elf-like creatures were created by Belgian cartoonist Peyo and called by French-speakers, Les Schtroumpfs, in the 1950s. But the British and Americans opted for their easier-on-the-tongue Dutch name, The Smurfs.

Parents may remember them fondly from their first wave of animated TV success in the 1980s but now they are getting the blockbuster Hollywood treatment in a new computer-animated movie on which this book is based, telling how an evil wizard sends the Smurfs to modern day New York (has anyone seen Enchanted?). With Smurf Village proving a very popular game app, it looks like blue is the colour again and loads more Smurf merchandise is on the way.

Moshi Monsters: Buster's Lost Moshlings

– A Search-and-Find Book (Sunbird, paperback, £6.99)

The Smurfs have got new rivals, virtual pets from a website called Moshi Monsters. The online world of colourful creatures, created by London-based Mind Candy, is massively popular with the primary school age group. Moshi mania, a blend of gaming and social networking, looks set to surpass Club Penguin and could even challenge the Disney empire in children's affections.

The Moshlings Collector's Guide proved a hit and now comes Lost Moshlings, which blends the world of Moshi Monsters with the Where's Wally concept of trying to find them from a cast of thousands on various large scale pictures. This could keep Moshi devotees quiet and busy for long periods, so may be perfect for that long holiday drive?

Holiday reading for the pre-teens

The Wimpy Kid Do-It-Yourself Book – Jeff Kinney (Puffin, paperback, £6.99)

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid became a massive hit, leading to a movie and many more books about Kinney's unlucky character Greg. But this book purporting to be your own DIY book has, alongside cartoons, illustrations and some quizzes, lots of blank or lined pages where children can create their own cartoon or story. Hmm. However popular the character, I can't help thinking youngsters will be a little disappointed. It's great to encourage creativity but parents could buy a notebook or sketch pad for a fraction of the price to do that. Kinney doesn't have to leave massive gaps in his book and then charge the same price as for a proper novel.

Ravenwood – Andrew Peters (Chicken House, paperback, £6.99)

Shropshire author Peters has created a wonderful new tree-top world with the forest island of Arborium, a well-imagined mile high tree-house kingdom, and a likeable character in young plumber's mate Ark. When he overhears a plot to rob his homeland of wood to supply resources for the steel and glass superpower Maw (yup, it's a green eco-parable), Ark finds himself plunged into the dark roots of Ravenwood on a desperate mission to save his woodland home and people. Peters should carve himself a niche in the children's fantasy genre with this cracking yet quite chunky adventure of nearly 400 pages.

The Emerald Atlas – John Stephens (Doubleday, hardback, £12.99)

Three siblings find out the magic is real, old books can cause lots of trouble and only they can save the world in this fantasy epic which weaves together elements akin to Pullman's His Dark Materials books, Lemnony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events and JK Rowling's saga about a certain boy wizard. This isn't quite in that league but an enjoyable read none the less.

The Dragon Whisperer – Lucinda Hare (Corgi, paperback, £5.99)

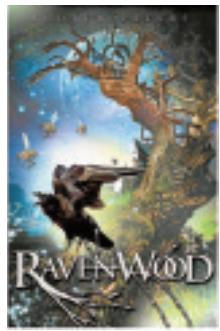
Dragons are in (have they ever been out?), thanks to the final Potter epic, TV's Merlin and a recent animated movie. This is a soaring debut with the hero aiming to ride a dragon into battle against the hobboblins. This is a solid fantasy in the classic tradition, and a good way to pave the way for The Hobbit.

Mio's Kingdom – Astrid Lindgren (Oxford University Press, paperback, £6.99)

Originally published in Swedish in 1954 by the author most famous for Pippi Longstocking. This story about a sad boy who escapes into a Narnia-like fantasy world is quite poignant. It is old fashioned but does have a dreamy quality.

The Day of the Monster Pigeons; The Day of the Camera Carnage – Steve Cole (Oxford University Press, paperbacks, £5.99)

Both part of the Freekham High School series, here are more weirdly amusing goings-on at a school that really would keep Ofsted busy. Fun for those ready to move on from, or supplement, their Horrid Henry reading.



Timeless classics still captivate

The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett (Oxford World's Classics, paperback, £8.99)

This year is the centenary of this children's classic, which has been dubbed fairly accurately as "the children's Jane Eyre". The story about a spoilt girl who, after her unloving parents die in a cholera outbreak, is sent from colonial India to her uncle's gloomy mansion on the bleak Yorkshire moors has lots of Gothic flavours, especially the spooky sobbing in the night that alerts her that all is not as it seems.

Yet, despite several characters being affected by the loss of loved ones, this turns into quite an upbeat novel with its modern views on health, nature, empire, childhood and gender. It remains a rewarding read.

Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson (Oxford World's Classics, paperback, £5.99)

Forget Pirates of the Caribbean, this is the definitive rip-roaring pirate tale. The story of young Jim Hawkins, who falls under the influence of the charismatic but dangerous Long John Silver, and the hunt for buried treasure is still gripping.

All the ingredients are here for a thrilling read – greed, murder, treachery. Written in 1883, it remains one of the all-time great adventures.

Ballet Shoes – Noel Streatfeild (Puffin, paperback, £6.99)

A classic celebrates its 75th anniversary with an endorsement from Jacqueline Wilson as one her all-time favourites. An age of house maids and exiles from the Russian Revolution may seem remote but this tale of three ambitious adopted siblings who pursue their stage-struck ambitions despite family money troubles can still captivate.

Tales of Ancient Egypt – Roger Lancelyn Green (Puffin Classics, paperback, £6.99)

Rick Riordan's children's novels featuring gods and monsters from Greek, Roman and Egyptian mythologies has made many youngsters interested in the legends of the ancient world. First published in the late 1960s, Green introduced many children to the great myths and can fascinate a new generation. His Egyptian tales include the creation myth of Amen-Ra, Isis searching the waters for her dead husband Osiris, the Bennu Bird and Book of Thoth, even the original version of Cinderella!

Leon Burakowski

OMG! It's text for the tweens

**Buttercup Mash – Joanna Nadin (Oxford University Press, paperback, £6.99)**

OMG. MY artist mother has gate-crashed my 14th birthday party with a homeless man called Fergal. And, like, my best friend Imogen, a complete drama queen, is refusing to speak to me because it is so totally unfair that all she got was Colin the Clown when she was seven and he wasn't half as drunk.

Enter the world of Buttercup Jones, precocious early teen who delivers a running commentary on her life via a diary which reads like an online blog. In fact, it is, for her online analyst. She has issues and they take a turn for the worse when she joins the school glee club with the potential for terminal embarrassment singing rock ballads like a demented karaoke addict.

It's funny and the English author Joanna Nadin has had other successful books for tweens (the 11 to 14 set) that have seen her shortlisted for the apparently coveted title "Queen of Teen". But some of the references sound rather unconvincing. I mean would Buttercup really know who Duke Ellington is when many kids her age don't know who Mick Jagger and David Bowie are?

Cherry Crush – Cathy Cassidy (Puffin, paperback, £6.99)

The first in the Chocolate Box Girls series now out in paperback. Cassidy has a big following enhanced by the stories of sassy girls. Trouble is brewing when new girl in town Cherry falls for dishy Shay Fletcher, only to find out the object of her desire is her new step-sister Honey's boyfriend. Ouch.



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Voice of Mac is back

Stevie Nicks
- In Your Dreams

NEW ALBUMS



Stevie Nicks - her new album is a collaboration with

Dave Stewart, formerly of The Eurythmics

Peggy Sue - Acrobats

The second outing from Brighton-based indie-folk trio is a typically brooding affair. Cut My Teeth sets the scene perfectly but there are more grinding riffs and it twists from The XX to early Yeah Yeah Yeahs - an intriguing mix. By the time closers Shadows and There Always Was echo from the speakers there's an feeling of reaching the end of a journey, with Parking Meter Blues and Boxes highlights along the way.

Japanese Voyeurs

- Yolk

Classed as alternative metal but throughout Yolk there are glints of all types of music, from grunge to pop, indie to metal, it's all in there.

Leon Burakowski

Foster The People

- Torches

Indie-pop band Foster the People made a major splash with their single Pumped Up Kicks and their album offers more of the same light, indie fun with Helena Beats and Waste. The album is a definite listen for fans of MGMT and Black Kids but as the album progresses it moves towards lo-fi dance with Life on the Nickel and Miss You.

While the album is a summery, feel-good effort, it is hard to not start licking your lips at the prospect of what Foster The People could deliver on their 'difficult' second album. This is an excellent debut and a superb foundation to build on.

Power on the go and on the beach

ONE For All's Universal Travel Power Pack is a good solution for those who want to take power with them when they head for the beach, a day out or take their gadgets anywhere else where a power point may not be available.

It is a power pack that can be used to power up a variety of gadgets both when plugged into the mains socket and, more importantly, can store up enough of that power to charge a range of popular devices, including the iPhone and iPod, when mains power is no longer available.

A set of LED lights on the power pack gives an indication of how much charge is stored, from one LED for 25 per cent to four for fully charged.

The pack comes with slide on plugs, one for the UK and a two pin plug for continental Europe. When ready to charge your device, connect the retractable cord to the charger pack via its USB port and then choose the appropriate tip from a selection of seven to click onto the end of the power chord that you will to plug into your gadget.

There is a discreet start or check button on the side of the pack, press it and charge away. It's fast and the power pack even saves energy with an auto shut off once your device is charged up.

The selection of tips included are compatible with iPhone/iPod plus devices from Samsung, LG, Sony Ericsson and Nokias that use the small socket, also Mini USB and Micro USB devices.

It's recommended price is £34.99 but its widely available online and often for less than the RRP.

LB



TomTom High Speed Multi-Charger

The One For All Universal Travel Power Pack

ANYONE with a long summer holiday drive ahead of them could find the new TomTom High Speed Multi-Charger very useful indeed.

Plug the three socket charger into the lighter point and you've got a way to quickly recharge that iPod Touch or DS that keeps the kids occupied. Similar devices may allow you to plug in more than one gadget for charging but these normally split the power.

This TomTom multi-charger comes with two dedicated USB ports that provide full power at all times. One is a 1.2 amp port for powering up mobile phones or MP3 players but the fast-charge 2.1 amp port lives up to its promise, quickly charging power-hungry USB devices such as the iPad - up to four times faster, according to TomTom, without impacting on the other ports' capability to charge. There is also a dedicated socket for powering 12V devices like DVD players.

I tested it out on my out-of-juice mobile and after a brief journey the fast-charge port had got it back to full power.

It's a really useful piece of kit for £19.99, available from Amazon, Dixons, Comet, Halfords and online at the www.tomtom.com website.

LB

to live up to it, with Iris and Cassandra coming closest. As the pace picks up, the lyrics become more prominent. With hints of Laura Marling, the lyrics are the stand out aspect of this album, you may not be whistling the tunes but you will definitely be mulling over the meanings of each song.

Kitty, Daisy and Lewis

- Smoking In Heaven

A joy of a summer album. Straight from the off, a mixture of reggae and soul means you can almost feel the warmth of the sun.

Don't Make A Fool Of Me shows the rockabilly influences while Baby Don't You Know About Me explains why Amy Winehouse was a fan.

The schizophrenic effects of such a broad range of influences begins to take its toll, especially on What Quid?, a seven minute jazz instrumental. The late Amy Winehouse's influence is wholly apparent throughout.

S.C.U.M

- Again Into Eyes

Art-rock quintet S.C.U.M have a mysterious, well-crafted sound. Thomas Cohen's vocals recall David Bowie and Interpol while electronic beats and crunching riffs provide the backdrop for this stunning debut. There are some truly euphoric moments hidden among the 10 tracks, most notably on Days Untrue. Lead single Amber Hands unveils a murkier underbelly to the album while Paris provides a heartfelt ballad.

Big Deal - Lights Out

The latest boy/girl duo to unleash melodic indie-pop, Big Deal look set to make the niche their own. With a stripped back sound, beautiful double-edged vocals and brooding lyrics, Alice Costelloe and KC Underwood are a fresh sound. The chemistry between the pair is apparent on Chair and Swoon, while Homework is as pretty as it is stark.

Jon Pritchard

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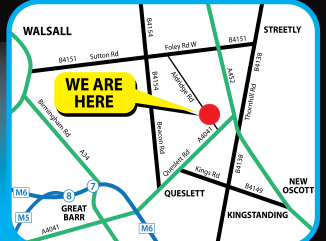
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Midcalf Nicholls is marketing an apartment within this former school house, in Stourbridge. The property, available for offers based on £145,000, has two bedrooms and original features

School's out at flat

THIS ground floor apartment is within the Old School House, and forms part of a superb conversion.

The accommodation retains a wealth of original features and has a real "wow factor" – and comes with a price guide of £145,000.

The property at New Road, Stourbridge, benefits from zones,

under-floor heating, wooden floors, double glazing, pressurised hot water system, kitchen with granite work surfaces and integrated appliances and luxury sanitary ware to both bath and shower rooms.

Space

Accommodation comprises communal entrance accessible via an intercom, entrance door into open plan living space with well-defined sitting and kitchen areas,

bedroom one with en suite bathroom, bedroom two and luxury shower room.

There is allocated parking to the rear of the property which offers secure ease-of-living in a convenient location, just a stone's throw from town centre amenities and public transport links.

For further details, or to arrange a viewing, contact the agent, Midcalf Nicholls, on 01384 443434.



The house is well-presented, with some nice touches

Terrace house on the market at £192,500

THIS traditional, three-bedroom, terraced house, is on the market in Bearwood for £192,500.

Estate agent Derek Spires says in its marketing details: "This is a truly immaculate and beautifully improved freehold terraced villa offering above-average size accommodation which is gas centrally heated, double glazed and fully alarmed."

Delightful

The property in Sherwood Road includes three double bedrooms, expensively refitted bathroom with bath and individual shower, hall, dining room, well-proportioned lounge, under stairs cloak area, superb 19ft fitted kitchen and a downstairs WC/washroom.

Outside there is a delightful enclosed garden and the house benefits from being located in an exceptionally convenient situation just off the main Bearwood Road with comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand.

Call 0121 420 4646 for more details.

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<p>LOWER GORNAL Fiveways Court</p> <p>An immaculate three bedroom mid terraced, three storey house available on 50% shared ownership basis with hallway, fitted kitchen, lounge, downstairs wc, two bedrooms and house bathroom on first floor and master bedroom on second floor, allocated parking and garden to the rear</p> <p>£69,950</p>	<p>COSELEY Penwood Gardens</p> <p>A two bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, kitchen, garden and parking to the rear</p> <p>£99,950</p>
<p>TIVIDALE Wheatsheaf Road</p> <p>An impressive three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, downstairs toilet, garden to the rear and a private road leading to the garage and rear</p> <p>£99,950</p>	<p>BRIERLEY HILL John Street</p> <p>A two bedroom end terraced modern house with lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, driveway to the front, garden to the rear and a potential garage to the side</p> <p>£112,000 o/o</p>
<p>SEDGLEY Monument Lane</p> <p>An extended four bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, driveway and gardens to front and rear</p> <p>£114,950</p>	<p>TIPTON Lissimore Drive</p> <p>A four bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted dining kitchen, utility room, en-suite to master bedroom and garden to the rear.</p> <p>£189,950</p>
<p>DUDLEY Aldeney Close</p> <p>TO LET</p> <p>A modern one bedroom apartment having open plan lounge/ kitchen area, Double glazing, allocated parking, No dss, No Pets. Unfurnished, available September 2011</p> <p>£460 PCM</p>	<p>SEDGLEY Kingfisher Way</p> <p>TO LET</p> <p>A modern two bedroom top floor apartment. Near Tipton town centre. Having double, open plan lounge/ kitchen/ dinner. Allocated parking, secure entry. Available now.</p> <p>£295 PCM</p>
<p>DUDLEY Central Drive</p> <p>TO LET</p> <p>A three bedroom semi detached house having gas central heating and double glazing. Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, Off road parking, available now. Housing benefits may be considered.</p> <p>£560 PCM</p>	<p>DUDLEY Hellier Street</p> <p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> <p>A three bedroom mid terrace house, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, one bedroom having an en-suite. Enclosed rear garden. No Dss, No Pets.</p> <p>£575 PCM</p>
<p>DUDLEY Pearce Close</p> <p>TO LET</p> <p>A three bedroom end terrace property with gas central heating and double glazing. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom. Off street parking, available August 2011. Unfurnished.</p> <p>£525 PCM</p>	<p>WORDSLEY Manor Road</p> <p>TO LET</p> <p>A mid terrace three bedroom house, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, one bedroom having an en-suite. Enclosed rear garden. No Dss, No Pets.</p> <p>£575 PCM</p>
<p>DUDLEY Foxyards Road</p> <p>TO LET</p> <p>A three bedroom semi detached house, central heating and double glazing, driveway and garage. Lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, available now for viewings.</p> <p>£550 PCM</p>	<p>KINGSWINFORD Green Lane</p> <p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> <p>A beautiful three bedroom semi detached house having lounge, kitchen/ diner, three good size bedrooms, loft room and out house currently being used as an office/ gym. Central heating and double glazing. Off street parking. Unfurnished, no pets, no dss available Sept 2011.</p> <p>£675 PCM</p>
<p>TIPTON Keyworth Close</p> <p>An immaculate two bedroom semi detached house located on Standerley Park with porch, hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, en-suite to master bedroom, driveway and a larger than average garden. Viewing is essential</p> <p>£119,950</p>	<p>TIPTON Tibbington Terrace</p> <p>A traditional detached house in excellent order throughout with garage, two reception rooms, dining kitchen, downstairs wc and a garden to the rear.***INCENTIVES AVAILABLE***</p> <p>£115,000</p>
<p>TIPTON Thunderbolt Way</p> <p>A first floor two bedroom apartment with hallway, lounge, kitchen and allocated parking</p> <p>£69,950</p>	<p>TIPTON California Road</p> <p>A three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining room, dining kitchen, garage, gardens to front and rear and driveway</p> <p>£94,950</p>

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MANOR DRIVE

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- ★ An impressive two bedroom semi
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- ★ Modern kitchen with dining area
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- ★ No Upward Chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

SEDGLEY



BIRCH ROAD

- ★ A splendid traditional semi-detached
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Kitchen ★ utility ★ Cloakroom
- ★ Three excellent sized bedrooms
- ★ Modern shower room, fitted units
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Upvc glazing (majority)
- ★ Driveway parking

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

UPPER GORNAL



ROCK STREET

- ★ A traditional end terrace property providing spacious accommodation
- ★ Two large reception rooms
- ★ Kitchen with utility
- ★ Two double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom
- ★ Upvc double glazing and gas central heating
- ★ Delightful rear garden on three levels
- ★ Ideal first time purchase

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

COSELEY



HIGH VIEW

- ★ An ideal first time purchase
- ★ A modern style semi-detached
- ★ Lounge and dining kitchen
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Modern bathroom
- ★ Upvc dg ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Driveway parking
- ★ No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £107,500

SEDGLEY



ETTymore CLOSE

- ★ Ideal buy-to-let opportunity
- ★ Ground floor flat, few minutes walk to Sedgley village
- ★ Excellent sized accommodation
- ★ Large lounge and kitchen
- ★ Two double sized bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating.
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £85,000

PARKFIELDS



KENNILWORTH CRESCENT

- ★ A spacious ground floor flat
- ★ Very convenient location
- ★ Lounge. ★ kitchen ★ Wtroom
- ★ Two double bedrooms
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Pleasant rear garden ★ Store
- ★ NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £66,950

SEDGLEY



QUEENS ROAD

- ★ A ground floor one bedroom flat
- ★ Neat and tidy throughout
- ★ Upvc double glazing, electric storage heating
- ★ Private courtyard to rear
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ No upward chain
- ★ FOR SALE OR RENT

£91,000 OR £425 PCM

www.swinscoes.co.uk

www.rightmove.co.uk

www.globrix.com

phipps and
pritchard

chartered surveyors
estate agents
auctioneers

.co.

TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

6pm Wednesday 14th September
at Kidderminster Harriers Aggborough Suite

Rectory Lane Rock DY14 9RU

A spacious and versatile four bedroom detached dormer bungalow requiring refurbishment. The property is very nicely located within the sought after rural village of Rock and briefly comprises: Porch, 'L' shaped Reception Hall, Kitchen, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Bathroom, Separate w.c. Two Bedrooms. FIRST FLOOR - Two further Bedrooms. Immense further potential. Freehold.



Auction Guide Price £100,000-£150,000

Chapel Lane Quatford Bridgnorth WV15 6QH

A Semi Detached Cottage in need of renovation and improvements and enjoying a pleasant village location approximately 2 miles south of Bridgnorth. The present accommodation includes a Beamed Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor Cloakroom with w.c. Hall and Verandah. Two Bedrooms. A Large Landing Area. Bathroom. There is a pleasant side garden with a timber and asbestos garage and a pleasant southerly aspect over paddock land at the rear.



Auction Guide Price £135,000

Sandy Lane Stourport DY13 9QB

Warehouse/Light Industrial Premises extending to gross ground floor area approximately 1,750 square feet and within the building kitchenette, stores, offices, altogether providing first class premises in convenient location.



Auction Guide Price £80,000

Hodfar Road Stourport DY13 9QB

A FINE OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKSHOP AND PREMISES
EXTENDING TO APPROXIMATE TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF
1,650 SQUARE FEET.

To be offered for sale by Public Auction, subject to prior sale, special conditions and reserve.



Auction Guide Price £70,000-£80,000

Worcester Road Kidderminster DY10 1HY

Situated just off the A449 Worcester Road in to the town, providing useful accommodation including reception hall and office suite together with storage bay, stores and workshop/warehouse area. The works extending to approximately 2,700 sq.ft. (251 sq.m.).



Auction Guide Price £110,000-£120,000

Hurcott Road Kidderminster DY10 2RG

A triangular parcel of freehold land on the outskirts of the town at the end of Hurcott Road with field gate access, road frontage of about 100 yards, extending to about 1.14 acres or thereabouts.



Photo for illustration purposes only

Auction Guide Price £10,000-£20,000

PROPERTIES NOT IN THE AUCTION

Stourbridge Road Kidderminster DY10 2XW

An exceptional property in a unique waterside location comprising hall, cloakroom, kitchen, living room, music room/study, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, games room, garaging and store rooms, set in about 1.67 acres.



Offers in the region of
£450,000

Stourbridge Road Kidderminster DY10 2XW

A quiet peaceful pool edged by woodland being an area of Special Scientific Interest (SSI) extending to about 19.93 acres. The fishing rights and use of the pool are subject to conditions.



OFFERS BASED ON
£50,000

Whytehouse Farm Barns Rock DY14 9SJ

Four residential barn conversions in a courtyard setting together with buildings used for storage and manufacturing, set in about 10 acres with far reaching views over the glorious Worcestershire countryside.



OFFERS BASED ON
£500,000

Caunsall Road Kidderminster DY11 5YH

AN EXCITING DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL. Planning permission has been granted to convert the former Public House in to two self contained apartments with the existing detached bungalow. Located in this in this sought after North Worcestershire Hamlet with excellent access to the West Midlands Conurbation, fine views over the Stour Valley, extensive parking.



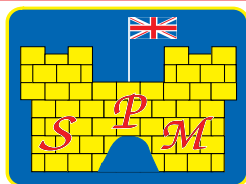
OFFERS BASED ON
£350,000

Kidderminster Tel: 01562-822244
Fax: 01562-825401
email: sales@phippsandpritchard.co.uk

Stourport Tel: 01299-822060
Fax: 01299-827066
email: stourport@phippsandpritchard.co.uk

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Fax: 01384 277720

GORNAL NEW WOOD ROAD £560 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.	WALL HEATH NEW SUMMERFIELD AVENUE £650 pcm Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.	KINGSWINFOR NEW THE PORTWAY £650 pcm Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Conservatory, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Double Garage, Off Road Parking.	KINGSWINFOR NEW PENZER STREET £575 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage.	OLDSWINFOR NEW THE FURLONGS £550 pcm Semi-Detached Cottage, Front Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two Bedrooms, Loft Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	GORNAL NEW EATON CRESCENT £570 pcm Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFOR NEW RAGEES ROAD £335 pcm Purpose Built Studio, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Area, Shower Room, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking.	WORDSLEY NEW CROWNAKES DRIVE £550 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Maintained Gardens, Off Road Parking, No Pets, Available Immediately.
KINGSWINFOR NEW HAWKESWELL DRIVE £550 pcm Mid terrace, Lounge, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.	WALL HEATH NEW CHAPEL STREET £560 pcm End Town House, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFOR NEW MURDOCH DRIVE £695 pcm Modern Town House, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, En suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFOR NEW WATER STREET £325/£395 pcm One single room and one double room available in house share, Fully Furnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Available Immediately.	WORDSLEY NEW BARNETT HOUSE, WORDSLEY GREEN £400 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Allocated parking.	WALL HEATH NEW ALBION PARADE £560 pcm Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Balcony, Allocated Parking.	KINGSWINFOR QUEEN STREET £575 pcm Mid Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	TIPTON GRACE ROAD £495 pcm Modern apartment, Lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, electric heating, double glazing, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.
NETHERTON SIMMS LANE £525 pcm End Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Recently Refurbished, Front & Rear Gardens.	COLLEY GATE WINDMILL HILL £450 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Recently Refurbished, Available Immediately.	DUDLEY BOURNE STREET £395 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Maintained Gardens, Allocated Parking.	WORDSLEY CHAPEL STREET £435 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Laminated Flooring & Curtains, Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFOR OAKFIELD AVENUE £795 pcm Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage & Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.	PENSNETT PRIMROSE PARK £525 pcm Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets and Curtains, Off Road Parking.	KINGSWINFOR COT LANE £385 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Small garden at rear, Off Road Parking.	BILSTON SARAH CLOSE £475 pcm Semi-detached property, Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, carpets and curtains. Unfurnished.
BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW £450 pcm Cluster style property, Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, double glazing.	GORNAL CENTRAL DRIVE £525 pcm Mid Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.	TIVIDALE ASHTREE ROAD £395 pcm Purpose Built Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Allocated Parking, Communal Grounds.	WORDSLEY LAWNSWOOD ROAD £750 pcm Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Office, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage.	TIPTON AVERN CLOSE £360 pcm Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking.	KINGSWINFOR RANGEWAYS ROAD £725 pcm Link Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished.	GORNAL ABBEY STREET £390 pcm Entrance, lounge, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing. Unfurnished.	ROWLEY REGIS STUART ROAD £575 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Front & Rear.
WOLLESCOTE MURCROFT ROAD £395 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking. Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFOR RAGEES ROAD £360 pcm Purpose Built Studio Style Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Shower Room, Unfurnished, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking.	WORDSLEY ARUNDEL ROAD £610 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility Area, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished.	KINGSWINFOR THE PORTWAY £380 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Partial Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished.	ROWLEY REGIS TITFORD LANE £345 pcm Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished.	GREAT BRIDGE EAGLE PLACE £370 pcm Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Economy Seven Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Private Parking, Security Entrance Door.	KINGSWINFOR COT LANE £695 pcm Detached Bungalow, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.	HOLLY HALL STOURBRIDGE ROAD £295 pcm First floor flat, Entrance Hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Unfurnished.
OLDBURY BRADES ROAD £420 pcm Studio Flat, Kitchenette, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, All Inclusive.	DUDLEY STOURBRIDGE ROAD £510 pcm Terrace property, Lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, carpets & curtains, rear garden. Unfurnished.	PENSNETT HIGH STREET £120 per week Shop premises in High Street location, WC & Kitchen Facilities, Parking at rear.	COLLEY GATE WINDMILL HILL £70 per week Ground Floor Shop Premises which kitchen, bathroom facilities and separate therapy room/similar, recently refurbished, currently used as hairdressers.	BROCKMOOR HIGH STREET £495 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Rear.	MILKING BANK BALMORAL VIEW £520 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished.	SEDGLEY DINGLE VIEW £675 pcm Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front/Side/Rear Gdns, Off Road Parking.	AMBLECOTE PARK STREET £100 per week Builders Yard or Similar, Enclosed Secure Gate, Approx 3000 sq ft.

**NO LET
NO FEE**

**NO SALE
NO FEE**

60a Manor Park, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 8AG
www.selectsalesandlettings.com



RODENBOYDELL

SEDGLEY



GREENLEIGHS

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge with French doors opening onto the rear garden, a dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, an office/study, a downstairs w/c, three spacious bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing where specified and gas fired central heating, a garage and a large rear garden that enjoys panoramic views.

£294,950

SEDGLEY



ALDER COPPICE

A four bedroom detached family home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a through lounge, a dining room, a fitted kitchen, a utility room, four bedrooms, a bathroom, a double garage and impressive gardens to the front, side and rear of the property.

£274,950

SEDGLEY



GREENACRES

A four bedroom detached home that enjoys a pleasant cul-de-sac location with breathtaking views of the local farmland. It briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a superb fitted kitchen, a 23ft conservatory, a utility room, a downstairs shower room, four bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a large rear garden.

£256,950

SEDGLEY



GOSPEL END ROAD

A two bedroom detached bungalow of considerable charm and character that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a conservatory, two bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing, gas fired Central heating and a delightful rear garden.

£255,950

MILKING BANK



CAERNARVON WAY

A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a superb fitted kitchen with a Rangemaster oven, a utility room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a carport, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.

£254,950

SEDGLEY



SOUTHERNDOWN ROAD

A three/four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a porch, a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a dining area, a magnificent fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, an office/bedroom four, a utility room, a downstairs w/c, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden.

£239,950

EARLS KEEP



BREAMORE CRESCENT

A three bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a through lounge, a dining room, a superb fitted kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a delightful rear garden.

£202,950

SEDGLEY



SANDYFIELDS ROAD

A three bedroom detached bungalow that briefly comprises: Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, dining area, kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, bathroom, UPVC double glazing (where stated), gas-fired central heating, garage and a rear garden.

£199,950

UPPER GORNAL



KENT STREET

A three bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, an impressive reception hall, a spacious through lounge, a magnificent re-appointed dining kitchen, three good sized bedrooms, a re-appointed bathroom, double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage with an office and w/c to the rear, a gravelled driveway and a delightful rear garden.

£184,950

SEDGLEY



NORTHWAY

A three / four bedroom dormer bungalow that briefly comprises an L-shaped reception hall, a lounge, a separate sitting room, a dining room / bedroom four, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a rear garden.

£174,950

DUDLEY



DIBDALE ROAD

A three bedroom semi-detached home that is arranged on three floors and briefly comprises a reception hall, an open plan lounge/dining room, an L-shaped breakfast kitchen that incorporates a sitting area, a utility room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a shower room, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a good sized rear garden.

£169,950

SEDGLEY



DUDLEY ROAD

A two bedroom semi-detached bungalow that briefly comprises: Reception porch, reception hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room, uPVC double glazing (where stated), gas-fired central heating and a beautiful rear garden.

£159,950

SEDGLEY



WARREN DRIVE

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a dining room, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.

£156,950

SEDGLEY



BROWNSWALL ROAD

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge with open access into the conservatory, a dining room, a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.

£154,950

SEDGLEY



SANDYFIELDS ROAD

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen, a dining/sitting room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, double glazing, a 33ft garage with a workshop behind and a pleasant rear garden.

£149,950

EARLS KEEP



GARRICK CLOSE

A two bedroom first floor apartment that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious open plan lounge/dining room, an enclosed balcony, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, two en-suite bedrooms, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, communal gardens, allocated parking for two cars and panoramic views.

£131,950

UPPER GORNAL



VALE STREET

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, an open plan kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a pleasant rear garden.

£131,950

FAIRVIEW PARK



MANDERSTON CLOSE

A two bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a lounge, a spacious dining kitchen, an inner hallway, a downstairs wc, two good sized bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a rear garden and an adjacent double carport area that provides parking for two cars.

£124,950

SEDGLEY



ROWAN ROAD

A two bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a conservatory, a fitted dining kitchen, an occasional room, a downstairs w/c, two bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a delightful rear garden.

£119,950

COSELEY



BERRINGTON DRIVE

A two bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge with a feature fireplace, a fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden.

£114,950

HURST HILL



CLIFTON STREET

A two-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a fitted dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a delightful rear garden.

£110,950

DUDLEY



CLENT VIEW, PROSPECT ROW

Clent view is a stunning development of brand new two and three-bedroom homes that are situated in a delightful cul-de-sac location adjacent to Buffery Park in Dudley. The beautifully appointed homes have been constructed by IP Developments and enjoy distant views of the Clent hills. Each property offers excellent living accommodation and has the benefit of a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a 10 year NHBC guarantee.

From £107,950

SEDGLEY



TURL'S HILL COURT, TIPTON ROAD

A two bedroom ground floor flat that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, a shower room, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, communal grounds and a garage situated in an adjacent block.

£89,950

HURST HILL



HOLLYWELL STREET

A one bedroom first floor flat that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a bedroom, a storage cupboard, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and communal gardens.

£69,950

BEARWOOD**HALESOWEN****SEDGLEY****129 Poplar Road****21 Hagley Road****2A Dudley Street****0121 434 4345****0121 550 3978****01902 880888****Taylor**

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS**DUDLEY****Clarence Road**

This Traditional styled three bedroomed mid Townhouse offers family sized accommodation, and has been much improved by the current vendors, with accommodation comprising, Hall, Modern Kitchen, Transverse Lounge, Three first Floor Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, Garden area to rear, Block paved driveway to the front, realistically Priced. Brierley Hill 01384 265265

Offers Around £89,950

DUDLEY**Oak Road**

A significantly modernised, restored & improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by vendors in recent years to provide exceptionally stylish accommodation. There is an entrance vestibule, inner hallway, refitted/re-tiled bathroom with white suite, delightful lounge with cast fireplace, transverse refitted 10ft dining kitchen with a fine range of 'Shaker-cream' effect units & various integrated appliances, THREE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), off road parking to front, sheltered/landscaped rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

GORNAL WOOD**Prospect Road**

A distinctive, highly individual, and comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached 'cottage style' family home set in favoured district within walking distance of the village. The characterful accommodation provides: entrance vestibule, fitted cloakroom, central reception hall (lofty ceiling height), cloak, formal dining room, 21'9" through living room with patio doors, Gornal stone chimney breast (with wood burner), and an 'inglenook' recess with beams, breakfast kitchen, utility room, Gallery landing, principal bedroom suite (comprising: vestibule, wardrobe, bedroom & shower room), three further bedrooms, bathrm, dm, garage, sheltered/secured rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £295,000

KINGSWINFORD**97 Lowe Drive**

A SUBSTANTIAL AND MOST IMPRESSIVE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which forms part of this small group. 7 year old collection of distinctive properties, combining a DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS layout with BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED and VERY WELL PLANNED accommodation, comprising: reception hall, ground floor w.c., large attractive lounge with feature fireplace, separate formal dining room, LARGE BREAKFAST KITCHEN with built in appliances, utility/lundry, FOUR EXCELLENT SIZE BEDROOMS at with built in wardrobes, master with an en suite shower room, house bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. The property is slightly elevated back beyond the BROAD BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY front lawn, GARAGE and a BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN forming a natural suntrap. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £239,950

DUDLEY**Osberton Drive, Milking Bank**

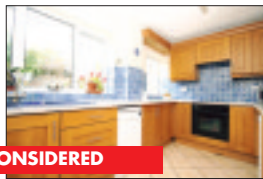
An exceptionally well presented & tremendously enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years to provide extremely stylish well proportioned accommodation. Enviously situated in relatively quiet cul de sac close to adopted open space and with panoramic distant views, the accommodation includes entrance hall way, lounge with feature fireplace, dining room, enlarged refitted L-shape breakfast kitchen with a tremendous range of units with many integrated appliances, lobby, fitted cloakroom. Four bedrooms (principal bedroom with white suite, landscaped garden, burglar alarm and personal inspection is considered imperative for full appreciation. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £214,950

KINGSWINFORD**ALL OFFERS CONSIDERED**

Exceptionally well placed within this highly desirable location, twist Barnett Lane and Cot Lane and very well placed for excellent local schooling, this VERY SUBSTANTIAL, MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS and ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED layout of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, ground floor w.c., very spacious full depth lounge, separate dining room, attractively refitted kitchen with integrated appliances, utility room, FOUR BEDROOMS (master with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM) and wet room. Set back beyond an attractive low maintenance foregarden with shrubs, together with TARMAC DRIVEWAY with approach to the GARAGE and enjoying a BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £229,950

4 New Street**LOWER GORNAL****The Alley**

PROPERTY OPEN FOR VIEWINGS ON SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST FROM 2.00 PM UNTIL 4.30 PM.
A particularly SPACIOUS, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached with potential to be converted into a two bedroomed house. The property is situated in a highly individual design circa 1975, the accommodation includes traditional 10ft reception hall, separate toilet, bathroom, principal bedroom 1 with an extensive range of fitted units, 18'6" lounge, breakfast kitchen & a veranda beyond. The first floor presently comprises central landing, double & single bedrooms but agents believe there is a tremendous further potential given traditional roof construction (subject to negotiations). Double tandem garage, extensive parking, delightful landscaped gardens. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £199,950

DUDLEY**Priory Close**

An attractive, traditional, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed inter-war detached character with further potential set in well regarded cul de sac. Accommodation provides entrance porch, imposing reception hall (with original oak block floor), understair store, dining room with bay, lounge with bay, breakfast room, kitchen, landing (with original doors/balustrades), three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, gated drive to timber garage, secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £189,950

WALL HEATH VILLAGE**1 Brookside Way**

Enjoying a very good 'corner' position and exceptionally well placed detached in popular convenient district, this IMMACULATELY PRESENTED, TRANSCENDANT, SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME affords a GENUINELY PROPORTIONED layout of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, CAVITY WALL INSULATION and comprising: reception hall, lounge, delightful conservatory extension, separate formal dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, THREE EXCEPTIONAL SIZE BEDROOMS and bathroom. Set back beyond beautifully maintained gardens to the front together with this DRIVEWAY and enjoying an ATTRACTIVE & PRIVATE SIDE / REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £189,950

SEDGLEY**Oakleigh Drive**

Enviable situated just off Sandfields Road, an EXTENDED, tremendously enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached set in quiet cul de sac with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. Accommodation provides reception hall, enlarged 22'10" lounge, separate breakfast room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'contemporary look' units & various integrated appliances, walk-in pantry, extended 10'6" principal bedroom & two further bedrooms, extended tiled bathroom, garage, delightful secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £185,000

GORNAL WOOD**Eaton Crescent**

RARE OPPORTUNITY. A comparatively spacious, EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached property located in favoured district where properties are so rarely made available. The meticulously maintained accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall, sitting room with bay, extended 15'6" lounge, extended 15ft. breakfast kitchen & a separate utility room. Three bedrooms (two with recently fitted 'hulwood' units), tiled bathroom, garage, delightful secluded rear garden. Significant potential. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £168,000

LOWER GORNAL

A tremendously enhanced, freehold, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached property located in quiet cul de sac backing onto open fields & with SUPERB OPEN ASPECT. Upgraded accommodation provides entrance vestibule, reception hall, superb refitted kitchen with a fine range of cream finish units & GRANITE work surfaces, transverse lounge, brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Principal bedroom with shower room en suite, two further generous bedrooms (BEDROOM TWO WITH FITTED WARDROBES), reapportioned bathroom with white suite, garage, lengthy secluded rear garden with southerly aspect, patio, decking with lighting & speakers. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region £164,950

St. Andrews Close**SEDGLEY****Furlongs Road**

TREMENDOUSLY IMPROVED, and meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular convenient district. The stylish accommodation includes: reception hall, dining room, sitting room with double doors through to a brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, refitted kitchen, through lobby with two stores and a separate toilet. Three bedrooms, recently reapportioned bathroom with a white contemporary fitted suite. Extensive parking, delightful secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

KINGSWINFORD**140 Bromley Lane**

Enjoying a LARGE and ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, MODERN, SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE offers a SPACIOUS and WELL PRESENTED layout of accommodation which is further enhanced by a LONG BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY approach, the accommodation includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING and comprises: reception hall, large full depth lounge with dining area, extended kitchen with integrated appliances, rear lobby with ground floor w.c. and storage off, THREE BEDROOMS and shower room, LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, attractive front garden, GARAGE and the approximate 75' long level rear garden. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £144,950

DUDLEY**Malthouse Drive**

A particularly SPACIOUS, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached property in quiet cul de sac, set in relatively quiet 'backwater' & benefitting from NO UPWARD CHAIN. To the ground floor is entrance vestibule, store, third bedroom, fitted cloak/shower room & a utility room. To the first floor, landing, spacious L-shape lounge/dining room & good sized breakfast kitchen with fine range of units & various integrated appliances. To the second floor, double bedroom 1 with bathroom en suite & double bedroom 2 with shower room en suite. Integral garage, garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £142,500

WOODSETTON**Park Road**

An ENLARGED/appreciably spacious, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached family home within walking distance of so many amenities, shops, municipal park, etc. The flexible room arrangements include reception hall, 23'4" through living/ dining room (previously separate rooms) with double opening French doors out to garden, upgraded kitchen, lobby, utility room, store. To the first floor is a gallery landing (scope for 'office alcove'), two double bedrooms, reapportioned bathroom, separate toilet. Loft conversion providing small landing & a dormer bedroom 1 (velux skylights). Off road parking to front, good size level rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £135,450

COSELEY**Elmdale Road, Bramford Estate**

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL. A gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) & double glazed traditional semi detached requiring some sympathetic updating set in popular district. Accommodation includes porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, sitting room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage (recently re-roofed), good sized garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £128,500

COSELEY**Horace Street, Hurst Hill**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. AN EXTENDED, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached set in a established, convenient district with good distant views from the rear. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, extended kitchen with a fine range of units, living room, three double bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, integral garage. Block paved foregarden & low maintenance rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,995

DUDLEY**Old Park Road**

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated & mostly uPVC double glazed DETACHED with potential and NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation includes: enlarged porch, reception hall, pantry, lounge with bay, separate dining room with patio doors to a brick sun lounge/playroom (with sky light), extended/upgraded 16 ft kitchen (with defined laundry area). Three bedrooms, bathroom. Parking and 23 ft garage, garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

COSELEY**Paul Street, Hurst Hill**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An absolutely outstanding & comparatively intermediate 'starter home' presented in exemplary order throughout in popular/convenient district. Meticulously maintained accommodation includes traditional 14'6" reception hall, fitted cloakroom, well equipped breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'maple' effect units, transverse lounge (with double french doors out to garden). TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with built-in wardrobe & a shower room en suite), house bathroom with white suite, block paved parking, landscaped secluded level rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

WORDSLEY**74 New Street**

THE ATTRACTIVELY ALTERED AND IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL FAMILY HOME, an absolutely outstanding & comparatively intermediate 'starter home' presented in exemplary order throughout in established location and offers a WELL PRESENTED and VERY SPACIOUS layout of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, PART UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, well proportioned lounge, attractively appointed dining kitchen, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom. Set back beyond the LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY which provides ample off-road parking for several vehicles and enjoying a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN with patio and lawns. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £119,950

DUDLEY**Old Park Road**

An attractive, ENLARGED & conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached in popular district. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, superb 28'6" through lounge/dining room (formerly separate rooms & with two bays), extended 16ft kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, parking to front, secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,950

DUDLEY**Dibdale Street**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A comparatively spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED interwar semi detached of character with potential. A number of period features remain, and the accommodation includes: glazed porch, imposing reception hall, walk in store, lounge with bay, separate dining room, kitchen, outer store. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Off road parking (kerb dropped), and lengthy secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £110,000



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KINGSWINFORD

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STOURBRIDGE

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KINGSWINFORD



20 Buckingham Grove

A VERY STYLISH AND DECEPTIVE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys a very pleasant open front outlook and is superbly located within sought after Valleyfields, providing an IMMACULATELY PRESENTED and BEAUTIFULLY RE-APPOINTED TOWN OF GENEROUS ACCOMMODATION comprising: hall, refitted guests cloakroom/w.c., large 16' x 11' shaped lounge with dining room area off, luxury refitted kitchen, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, luxury refitted bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. This superb property is set well back beyond the front lawn with a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a GENEROUS BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £244,950

SEDGLEY



Blakeney Close

An absolutely outstanding, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached bungalow that has been comprehensively renovated to an exemplary specification in recent years. Envisaged in short cul de sac with magnificent PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS from the rear. This remarkable home comprises reception hall, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'beech' units & numerous integrated appliances, stylish lounge with patio doors, two double bedrooms (both with a fine range of fitted units), reapointed shower room with contemporary white suite. Large garage with automated door tiled floor incorporating utility section & separate cloakroom. First quality materials & workmanship throughout as a personal inspection will confirm. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £229,950

SEDGLEY



Gower Road, Northway

A gas centrally heated UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED detached bungalow envitably situated in favoured cul de sac section abutting onto open fields with magnificent PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS beyond. Offering potential, the accommodation includes reception hall, cloaks cupboard, boiler cupboard, two double bedrooms, bathroom, transverse 22'5" lounge/dining room, kitchen. Lengthy garage, neat secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £195,000

KINGSWINFORD



29 Fairlawn Drive

Very pleasantly located within a small 'cul-de-sac' leading off Fairlawn Drive itself to form part of this refitted address between Sharn Road and Barnett Lane, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, RE-PLANNED AND EXPENSIVELY RE-APPOINTED, SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers VERY SPACIOUS and VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, ground floor w.c., splendid large lounge, dining room area, separate sitting room/off-playroom, attractively refitted breakfast kitchen with integrated appliances, THREE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom. Set back beyond the front lawn, together with LARGE DRIVEWAY with approach to the GARAGE and enjoying an ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN, which enjoys an OPEN ASPECT. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £194,950 - NO UPWARD CHAIN

WORDSLEY



28 Fernleigh Gardens

Exceptionally well placed within this highly sought after 'cul-de-sac' which forms part of this most desirable location, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED BUNGALOW affords a PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS LAYOUT of accommodation which is GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED throughout, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, spacious L shaped lounge with dining area, garden room, refitted kitchen, TWO GOOD BEDROOMS, shower room and separate w.c. Set back beyond an attractive fore garden, with DRIVEWAY approaching the CARPORT, together with GARAGE and, to the rear, enjoying a DELIGHTFUL REAR GARDEN which enjoys a PRIVATE REAR ASPECT. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £189,950

LOWER GORNAL



Ruiton Street

Presented in exemplary order throughout, a modern, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached bungalow in short quiet cul de sac development. Outstanding accommodation includes reception hall, boiler cupboard & cloaks cupboard, two bedrooms, reapointed bathroom with white suite, well equipped kitchen with a fine range of 'beech' effect units & many integrated appliances, elegant lounge & brick UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond, parking, neat secluded 'low maintenance' rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £179,950

WORDSLEY



85 Arundel Road

A SUCCESSFULLY ENLARGED AND BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is very well placed, just off Balmoral Road, upon the much sought after Forest Lane/Ashwood Park development and offering an ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED and VERY SPACIOUS layout of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: entrance porch, very spacious full width lounge, separate dining room, attractively refitted kitchen with built-in appliances, utility room, THREE BEDROOMS and beautifully refitted bathroom. Set back beyond the front lawn, together with BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with approach to the GARAGE and enjoying a LARGE REAR GARDEN with patio / lawn. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £164,950

NETHERTON



Quayside Walk

This beautifully decorated, and well presented 3/4 bedroomed Town House was constructed in 2008 and offers gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed accommodation arranged over three floors and comprises: Hall, Guest w.c. Bedroom Over/Office, open plan Kitchen/diner, Lounge, Bedroom Three, Bathroom to first Floor and Bedroom two, along with Bedroom one and en-suite to second floor, low maintenance Garden to rear, allocated parking and Garage, positioned in a splendid and enviable Canal Side location. BRIERLEY HILL 01384 265265

Offers Around £164,950

WOODSETTON



New Property Adj. to 11 Vicarage Road West

A comparatively SPACIOUS & highly individual, freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached nearing completion & to be covered by NHBC guarantee. There is a canopy porch & the well appointed accommodation includes 17'10" lounge with walk-in bay, inner hallway, fitted cloakroom, L-shape 17'4" dining kitchen with a fine range of 'Old English Cream' effect units & numerous integrated appliances, laundry section & dining room section (with double french doors out to garden). THREE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), stylish bathroom, parking/car port space, level fenced/terraced rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £157,500

WORDSLEY



23 Renfrew Close

This SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, NOW EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is very pleasantly located OVERLOOKING AN ATTRACTIVE OPEN GREEN upon sought after Ashwood Park/Forest Lane and offering a SUCCESSFULLY ALTERED AND ENLARGED LAYOUT of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, dining kitchen, substantially extended lounge with dining area, separate dining room / bedroom 4, THREE GOOD SIZED FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS and bathroom. Set back beyond an attractive slate chipped fore garden, together with DRIVEWAY and enjoying a PLEASANT LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £149,950

SEDGLEY



Northway

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured district. Accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, store, lounge, dining room with patio doors, enlarged/upgraded kitchen with various integrated appliances & a 23ft. though utility room beyond. Two double bedrooms & enlarged (into eaves) L-shape bedroom 3, bathroom with white suite, garage, block paved drive, secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Price: £144,950

WOMBOURNE



58 Meadow Lane

Very pleasantly situated within this highly sought after location within Wombourne village, this ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED HOME offers a VERY WELL PRESENTED and GENEROUSLY PROPORTIONED layout of accommodation which is WELL APPOINTED throughout, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, spacious lounge, attractively refitted dining kitchen with integrated appliances, TWO EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom. Set back beyond the LARGE COTTSWOLD CHIPPED DRIVEWAY and enjoying an ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £139,950

WORDSLEY



22 Sandringham Road

Commanding an elevated position and enjoying DELIGHTFUL VIEWS towards Client Hills, this MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is superbly located upon the highly sought after Ashwood Park development and offers a SPACIOUS LAYOUT of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING, CAVITY WALL INSULATION and comprising: reception hall, spacious lounge, dining kitchen, utility / garden room, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS and bathroom with light colour suite. The property is set back beyond an attractive fore garden with shrubs, together with a LONG DRIVEWAY which extends to the side of the property providing an approach to the GARAGE and, to the rear, the property enjoys a PLEASANT LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £134,950

DUDLEY



Belvoir Close, Milking Bank

This beautifully presented UPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached has been conscientiously maintained by current owners and may particularly appeal to first time buyers. The stylish accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen with a fine range of units, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, driveway & a pleasant rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £132,950

KINGSWINFORD



124 Tunstall Road

Superbly located within this sought after cul de sac upon the very popular 'Crestwood Park' development, this BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, DISTINCTIVE, MODERN, SEMI-DETACHED 'DORMER' HOUSE offers an IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS arrangement of VERSATILE accommodation which is ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED throughout, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, spacious full width lounge, attractively fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, refitted bathroom and TWO / THREE BEDROOMS (bedroom 3 is accessed off bedroom 2). Set back beyond a LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, which provides off-road parking for several vehicles, and enjoying an ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN which enjoys an OPEN REAR ASPECT. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £129,950

QUARRY BANK



New Street

Standing in this established residential location close to all local facilities, this modern styled gas centrally heated and double glazed, three bedroomed semi-detached property comprising: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Guest w.c. Three bedrooms, modern bathroom, garden to rear, garage, driveway to front. Realistically Priced. BRIERLEY HILL 01384 265265

Offers Around £129,950

COSELEY



Andersleigh Drive

RARE OPPORTUNITY. Occupying a tremendous CORNER PLOT with significant potential, a freehold, double glazed end 'starter home' at head of cul de sac comprising entrance hallway, lounge, transverse breakfast kitchen with upgraded units, brick/UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, two bedrooms, bathroom, carport, extensive gardens to side & rear. VENDORS ADVISE NO UPWARD CHAIN. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £120,950

COSELEY



Avenue Road

COMPETITIVE ASKING PRICE. A gas centrally heated (recent boiler) & primarily UPVC double glazed DETACHED of character that has been modernised but offers further potential set within walking distance of Roseville, railway station & other amenities. With a number of character features, the accommodation comprises recessed porch, imposing reception hall, dining room with bay lounge, enlarged 16ft kitchen with integrated appliances, store. Gallery landing for use of storage, three bedrooms, reapointed bathroom with white suite. Gated garage space (subject to regulations) & a secluded level rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £129,950

KINGSWINFORD



14 Burrows Road

Very well placed just off Bromley Lane, within this highly sought after location, this MODERN THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a THOUGHTFULLY PLANNED and VERY SPACIOUS arrangement of accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, spacious full width lounge, fitted kitchen, THREE VERY GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and bathroom. Set back beyond an attractive fore garden with specimen shrubs, together with the DRIVEWAY with approach to the GARAGE and enjoying PRIVATE REAR GARDEN which is beautifully stocked with specimen shrubs and enjoys a very pleasant rear aspect. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £129,500

KINGSWINFORD



70 Surrey Drive

The MOST DECEPTIVE AND ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED, MODERN TWO BEDROOM MID 'NEWS' HOUSE is superbly located within this highly sought after modern development, approached off Auckland Road and offering accommodation which is READY TO MOVE INTO, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, attractive lounge, attractively fitted dining kitchen with integrated appliances, TWO BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom. Benefiting the use of TWO ALLOCATED OFF-ROAD CAR PARKING SPACES and enjoying an ATTRACTIVE TIERED REAR GARDEN. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £124,950

PENSNETT



Blackwater Close

Occupying a corner plot and enjoying an open aspect to front, this beautifully presented, extended, UPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroomed semi detached home has been considerably updated and improved by the present owners, and is well worth of internal inspection. The deceptively spacious accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish lounge, extended dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units, utility, two first floor double bedrooms, bathroom with shower cubicle, separate wc, splendid loft bedroom, and a low maintenance garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £124,950

GORNAL WOOD



The Spinney

A stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & part UPVC double glazed end 'starter home' in favoured cul de sac. The upgraded accommodation includes spacious 15ft reception hall, a 16'10" lounge/dining room & refitted kitchen with a fine range of oak 'Shaker style' units with various integrated appliances. THREE BEDROOMS, reapointed bathroom with white suite, neat rear garden, off road parking & a GARAGE in separate block. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,950

UPPER GORNAL



Priors Mill

An exceptionally stylish, tremendously enhanced, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been 'transformed' by present vendors in recent years with the superb accommodation including reception hall, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'maple' effect units (with integrated appliances). THREE BEDROOMS, reapointed bathroom with stylish white suite, large corner plot. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £114,995

WORDSLEY



41 Smalman Close

Situated within this new and exciting modern development, just off Auckland Road, this BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, MODERN, FIRST FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT offers a SUPERB LAYOUT which is ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED throughout and READY TO MOVE INTO, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, spacious open plan lounge with fitted kitchen (with integrated appliances), TWO BEDROOMS (master with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM) and classic white bathroom. Benefiting the use of an ALLOCATED OFF-ROAD CAR PARKING SPACE which is located within a PRIVATE RESIDENT'S PARKING AREA, together with SEPARATE VISITOR PARKING. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £109,950

Taylor's

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SEDGLEY



Round Hill

An ENLARGED, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently situated in relatively quiet cul de sac with good distant views. The conscientiously maintained accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, living room, transverse dining kitchen (with double doors out to garden) & a fine range of units, pantry, outer lobby, store, workroom & a separate toilet. Two double bedrooms, reappointed/re-tiled bathroom, parking & delightful secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region £109,950

QUARRY BANK



Lawnsdown Road

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, requiring selective modernisation, yet offering excellent potential is this modern style three bedroomed semi detached property which has gas centrally heated accommodation which comprises: Hall, Through lounge, kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, Bathroom. Garden to rear parking to the front, realistically priced. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £109,950

GORNAL WOOD



New Street

A tremendously enhanced & exceptionally stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed, ENLARGED traditional intermediate terrace of character excellently situated within walking distance of the village & all associated amenities. Stylish accommodation includes 22ft through living room, separate breakfast room (with patio doors out to the garden) and upgraded kitchen, lobby, recently reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite/electric shower, two double bedrooms. Neat secluded rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £108,950

LOWER GORNAL



Pennine Drive

This well presented, surprisingly spacious, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated end townhouse is situated in a relatively quiet backwater whilst remaining convenient for local amenities & is sure to appeal to both first time buyers & young families. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, stylish lounge, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, refitted bathroom with white suite, driveway & a pleasant rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £106,950

SEDGLEY



NEW PRICE

Arcal Street

An attractive, exceptionally well presented & tremendously improved, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed traditional terrace of character within level walking distance of Sedgley's Bull Ring. Superb accommodation includes elegant dining room (with original overmantel), understairs store, sitting room (with living flame feature gas fireplace), lobby, refitted kitchen & further utility section beyond. Two double bedrooms, various storage cupboards, reappointed bathroom with stylish white suite. Delightful, lengthy, well tended rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £104,950

KINGSWINFORM



NEW PRICE

9 Maple Grove

Delightfully situated within a small residential cul-de-sac, this MOST IMPRESSIVE and EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED MODERN HOUSE has, in recent years, been BEAUTIFULLY REFITTED and REDECORATED throughout including UNDERFLOOR HEATING (where specified), DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: entrance hall, large attractive lounge, luxury refitted kitchen with built in appliances, large double bedroom and LUXURY REFITTED SHOWER ROOM. DRIVE/PARKING and a private enclosed rear garden. KINGSWINFORM OFFICE 01384 401777

Price: £104,950

DUDLEY



NEW PRICE

Acacia Close

NO UPWARD CHAIN. A COMPETITIVELY PRICED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed 'starter home' in a cul de sac convenient for so many amenities & facilities. Accommodation includes reception hall, cloak cupboard, updated kitchen, understairs store, delightful lounge with uPVC double glazed patio doors out to garden. TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lengthy front garden with block paved parking, secluded rear garden.. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £99,950

DUDLEY



Pebworth Grove

A freehold, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED semi detached 'starter home' conveniently situated within reasonable distance of so many amenities & comprising entrance hallway, lounge, transverse kitchen (appliances to remain), two bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, parking to front, delightful well stocked rear garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £94,950

COSELEY



Oaklands Court, Ettingshall Road

This beautifully presented, most appealing & comparatively spacious two bedroom first floor apartment forms part of the relatively recently completed 'Oaklands Court' development and simply must be viewed to appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The uPVC double glazed property has been conscientiously maintained by the present owner and briefly comprises secure communal entrance with entry phone system, hall, stylish lounge/dining room with French doors, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units and integrated appliances, two bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, secure communal gardens and allocated parking. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

PENSNETT



NEW PRICE

Byron Street

Set in this established residential location, close to all local facilities, is this gas centrally heated, part double glazed, traditional style semi detached property offering two bedroomed accommodation which comprises: inner hall, lounge, modern kitchen, guest wc, two first floor bedrooms, modern bathroom, gardens to front and rear, garage, burglar alarm, uPVC gutter and fascia. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers Around £86,450

WOODSETTON



Roper Walk

FULLY FURNISHED, comparatively spacious, well presented & conscientiously maintained FIRST FLOOR flat in quiet 'backwater location' in favoured residential area. Secure communal entrance hall/lobby. The uPVC double glazed accommodation includes private entrance hall, stylish lounge, kitchen with a range of units, two good bedrooms, bathroom, lawned communal gardens & allocated parking space. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

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A well presented, comparatively spacious, uPVC double glazed first floor flat that has been conscientiously maintained by present owner convenient for local amenities. The property, which may be of particular interest to first time buyers, briefly comprises secure communal entrance, private hall, living room, kitchen, double bedroom with built-in wardrobes, bathroom with white suite, allocated garden area to rear. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

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£525 pcm

St Lukes Terrace, Dudley



Modern 2 Bed Town House. Close to amenities. Large Lounge. Modern Kitchen. Power Shower. Rear Garden & Driveway. GCH. UPVC. Available Now.

£450pcm

Perry Close, Dudley



Well Presented 2 Bed Semi. Large Lounge. Breakfast Kitchen. Bath & Shower. Garden & Driveway. GCH. Close to amenities. Value at

£495pcm

Moore Street, Brierley Hill



Spacious Refurbished 2 Bed Ground Floor Flat. Large Lounge. Modern Breakfast Kitchen. Double Bedrooms. Power Shower. GCH. UPVC. Private Parking. Value.

£395pcm

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Spacious 1 Bed First Floor Flat. Large Lounge. Fitted Kitchen. Double Bedroom. Bath & Shower. GCH. UPVC. Parking.

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Stourbridge Road, Dudley.



Refurbished Three Bed Semi. Close to all amenities. Two Reception. New Kitchen and Bathroom. New Carpet and decor Throughout. Driveway. GCH. UPVC. Available Now.

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Self contained Studio Apartment. Close to all Amenities. Kitchen, Laminate Flooring, Bath and Shower, Storage Heating, Garage.

£295 pcm

Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.



Large Two Bed Flat above Commercial Premises. Fitted Kitchen. Large Lounge. Utility Room. Double Bedrooms. Shower. GCH. UPVC. Parking.

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• An Improved Terraced Residence • Three Bedrooms • Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Dining • Ground Floor Cloakroom • Conservatory • Upstairs Bathroom • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Rear Garden

£109,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



TIVIDALE

• Extended Semi Detached • Two Bedrooms • Fitted Kitchen • Extended Dining / Games Room • Extended First Floor Bathroom • Lounge • Utility Room • GCH System • D/G Where Stated • Rear Garden

£80,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



OLD PORT CLOSE

• 5% Deposit Paid On Asking Price • Two Bedroom Semi Detached • Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Refitted Bathroom • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Garage • Driveway

£99,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



REDCROFT ROAD

• Semi Detached Residence • Three Bedrooms • Lounge • Kitchen • Dining • Utility Room • Ground Floor WC • Double Glazing • Where Stated • GCH System • Rear Garden • No Chain

£110,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



TIVIDALE

• Extended Semi Detached • Two Bedrooms • Fitted Kitchen • Extended Dining / Games Room • Extended First Floor Bathroom • Lounge • Utility Room • GCH System • D/G Where Stated • Rear Garden

£80,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



PARK LANE WEST

• Two Bedroom Wall Presented Mid Town House • Lounge • Kitchen With Oven And Hob • Conservatory • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Rear Garden • Driveway

£99,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



GROVELAND ROAD

• Ground Floor Apartment • 50% Shared Ownership • Two Bedrooms • Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Communal Parking

£39,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



LEVESON DRIVE

• Wall Presented Three Bedroom Mid Townhouse • Lounge • Conservatory • Kitchen • Bathroom • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazed Where Stated • Driveway • Viewing Recommended

£125,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



THE BROADWAY

• Three Bedroom Extended Semi Detached • Two Reception Rooms • Extended Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom Having White Suite • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Garage • Block Paved Driveway

£149,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



OAK CRESCENT

• Three Bedroom Bay Fronted Detached • Two Reception Rooms • Extended Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom Having White Suite • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazed Where Stated • Rear Garden • Driveway • Garage • Viewing Recommended

£184,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



DANDO ROAD

• Two Double Bedroom End Terrace • Two Reception Rooms • Fitted Kitchen • Upstairs Bathroom • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazed Where Stated • Rear Garden

£64,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



MALTHOUSE DRIVE

• A Detached Residence Having Corner Plot • Three Bedrooms • Lounge & Dining Area • Fitted Kitchen • Bedroom One Having En-Suite • Ground Floor Cloakroom • Rear Garden Having Lawn & Decking • Garage & Drive

£154,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



HILLMEADS DRIVE

• A Detached Residence Occupying Cul-De-Sac Location • Four Bedrooms • En-Suite To Bedroom One • Through Lounge • Fitted Kitchen & Dining Room • Ground Floor Cloakroom • Utility • Double Width Garage • Rear Garden Having Decking • Viewing Recommended

£239,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



COPPICE ROAD

• Three Bedroom End Terrace • Two Reception Rooms • Kitchen • Bathroom • Upstairs • Vestibule • Gas Central System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Rear Garden • Driveway • No Upward Chain

£109,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



LAMBERT FOLD

• Wall Presented Modern Two Bedroom Semi Detached • Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Bathroom • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Front and Rear Garden • Driveway • Cul-De-Sac Location • NO UPWARD CHAIN

£94,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



VIEW DRIVE

• A Four Bedroom Detached • Through Lounge / Dining Room • Breakfast Kitchen • Games Room • Ground Floor Cloakroom • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing • Where Stated • Balcony • Garage

£250,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



ROCKINGHAM CLOSE

• A Four Bedroom Detached Residence • Two Reception Rooms • Fitted Kitchen • Upstairs Bathroom • Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazed Where Stated • Rear Garden

£275,000 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



45 NIGHTINGALE DRIVE, TIPTON, DY4 7QL

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £74,500. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to Your Move Estate Agents before exchange contracts takes place.

£77,500 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



17 DARBY END ROAD, DUDLEY, DY2 9JP

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £72,000. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to Your Move Estate Agents before exchange contracts takes place.

£68,950 DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



HELLIER STREET

• A three bedroom terraced residence comprising two reception rooms, kitchen and ground floor bathroom. Other features include gas central heating and double glazing. ***DSS ACCEPTED WITH GUARANTEE***

£430 PCM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



MEADOW ROAD

• A Much Improved Two Bedroom End Terraced Property, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen & Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite Shower Cubicle And Re-fitted Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Garden

£495 PCM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



OAKTHORPE GARDENS

First Floor Two Bedroom Maisonette in a Cul-De-Sac Location. Close to the Tesco/Barnes Free Island roundabout and the A4123 Birmingham New Road offering excellent access to Dudley, Wolverhampton and the motorway system. Having Lounge, Kitchen and Bathroom, with Double Glazing and Electric Storage Heating and Allocated Parking

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GAITSKELL TERRACE

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HIGHFIELD ROAD

Three bedroom terraced comprising lounge, refitted kitchen, refitted first floor bathroom, gas central heating system and double glazing. Driveway

£525 PCM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



JUNCTION STREET

• Spacious One Bedroom Ground Floor Accommodation. Close to Town Centre, Allocated Parking. ***DSS Accepted with Guarantee***

£375 PCM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



ELM TERRACE

• An Improved & Extended Semi Detached • Two Bedrooms • Two Reception Rooms • Extended Kitchen • Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing • Drive

£525 PCM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000



GRAINGER STREET

A chance to let this desirable mid terraced property comprising two reception rooms and kitchen to ground floor and two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor. The property has double glazing and central heating, viewing recommended

£410 PCM DUDLEY ☎ 01384 455000

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VN04SYV	LIANA GLX AUTO 54904 miles, Silver	£6991
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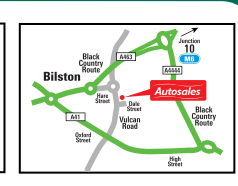
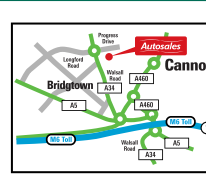
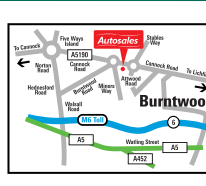
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Triumph puts a tank in the Tiger

By Bob Hickman

SADLY I am of an age to remember when Triumph produced a 750cc Tiger.

At the time I borrowed one from the old Co-operative Triumph factory and competed in off-road competitions.

It was based on the good old-fashioned parallel twin engine and it did its job. It shook itself to pieces with vibration and was never the most reliable but it did win me a few pots.

When I had the opportunity to test the latest Triumph Tiger from the Hinckley factory I grabbed it with relish.

Triumph has identified a gap in the market. They saw BMW and Honda were doing very nicely with people who wanted to buy an off-road style bike without necessarily wanting to ride it that way – a bit like people who buy 4x4s but never venture off-road.

A bike that could be used for commuting, touring and semi-off-road would have appeal so the Triumph Tiger 800cc is produced as two variants. I tested the road-biased version. With its 19" cast wheels it is an all-round useable machine. Then there is the off-road version that has a 21" spoked front wheel, much longer suspension and different tyres.

Gem

Triumph has been loyal to the three-cylinder concept and the engine fitted to the Tiger was a little gem. It was almost linear in its power production: with fuel injection, gone are the days of fiddling with chokes to get that initial start then a reliable tick-over.

It has a capacity of 799cc; and Triumph has not stifled the unique and wonderful sound of the three-cylinder with the exhaust set up.

It is said to produce 94bhp at 9,300 revs with a reasonable amount of torque at mid-range.

Triumph suggests a top speed of 130mph should be achievable and the 4.2-gallon tank should give a range of about 200 miles.

The Tiger is a tall bike. I am just over six feet with long legs so for me it was perfect. The sports screen fits in front of the instrumentations and at first I thought it was a bit gimmicky, but to my amazement 70mph cruising on the motorway showed that it worked. The aerodynamic effect of hanging on to a high set of handlebars was diminished and it actually kept some of the rain off.

The bike is a very agile performer, belying the fact that it is an 800cc, and the weight distribution is perfect. Performance from the first twist of the throttle all the way through the six gears is excellent. Acceleration is very brisk, the gearbox is a

delight and very easy to use. Clutchless changes could quite easily be made up or down the box.

One aspect of the derivative I rode was that it doesn't like off-road performing. Bennetts Lane runs by the A454 near the outskirts of Wolverhampton towards Potttingham. It starts off very narrow, gets narrower with grass in the middle, then degenerates into a farm track, and the last quarter of a mile is a stream bed.

It is an education and difficult to ride. The pebbles had been polished so high, that the bike at times struggled to find grip and it was sideways as much as it was pointing forward. But it proved a point. It is possible to tackle a "green lane" but you need to concentrate and show the bike who is boss. With the tall seat configuration the smaller statured may struggle if they venture too far off-road. Having said that, it was just an exercise because Triumph is promoting this as a dual-purpose bike.

Handling on road was brilliant and the power belied how big this bike is. It was almost like riding a small 250cc and the big wide bars were a bonus in town. It is a bike Triumph should justifiably be proud of and BMW with the 800cc GS and Honda with the Transalp should be concerned.

Fuel consumption in the mid-40s is not to be scoffed at and the big fuel tank means no need to be paranoid about running out of fuel on the motorway.

My own bike is a 10-year old Pan European, so I am out of touch with what modern motor cycles now add as standard. I was surprised to find the instrumentation on the Triumph comprised a digital speedometer with a conventional analogue tacho, a clock and a digital display of gear selection – useful with a six-speed gearbox. Two trip displays, as in a car, are useful too.

Distance

It has an average speed, and fuel consumption display, a fuel gauge and, again copied from the car world, distance remaining with the amount of fuel on board. These were all easy features and the buttons were sensible and simple to operate with gloves.

Triumph expects to sell at least 7,000 of these bikes worldwide. I can't see any reason it shouldn't achieve that, because once you have ridden it you realise just how good both the bike and concept are. My only reservation is the lack of luggage space.

With a price from £7,149, on sale now, I can see nothing but success for Triumph and this new bike.



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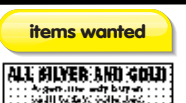
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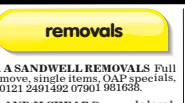
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SPORT

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Some of the 60 Halesowen College students who took part in a wheelchair basketball game

An inclusive sports lesson for students

STUDENTS were given the chance to experience life as a disabled athlete when staff organised a wheelchair basketball game in Halesowen. Sixty Halesowen College sport students took part in the event, which was designed to show how sport activities can be adapted to involve both able-bodied and disabled people. They completed

wheelchair basketball drills and skills activities, before competing against each other in a game. Cathy Mayall, sports organiser at Halesowen College which is based on Whittingham Road, said: "By playing the game in wheelchairs showed the students how sport can be adapted in many ways to make it as inclusive as possible to everyone."

Late goal misery plus a red card

Paulton Rovers 1 Halesowen Town 1

Halesowen were given a tough introduction to life in Division One South and West as Paulton grabbed a late equaliser to share the spoils at Winterfield Road.

The Yeltz, still under the tutelage of Shaun Cunningham, made a dream start to life in their new division when they took a sixth-minute lead.

Lee Chilton's direct free kick beat Paulton's defensive wall and bounced up into the net after Justin Nisbett had been fouled on the edge of the area, *writes David Johnson*.

Three minutes later the hosts nearly responded when Ben Osman curled a free-kick over the Halesowen bar from a similar position. With Paulton missing Ollie Price, Steve Bridges and Adam Mahdi through suspension, Osman led the line for the Bristol-based side and drove wide

after 25 minutes. The game then became slightly fractured with Andrew Westwood's frustration leading to the first of five yellow cards for Halesowen.

They went close directly from the second half kick-off with a long range effort but then lost Nisbett through injury and adopted a revised formation, with midfielder Marlon Walters replacing the striker.

Jackson almost snatched a second goal when he capitalised on a sliced clearance from goalkeeper Kyle Phillips with a 20 yard volley that struck the crossbar.

Paulton's pressure gradually built with Halesowen dropping ever deeper in the final 20 minutes.

Craig Loxton's fierce drive from a wide angle was turned over the bar before Jamie Taylor somehow missed from just two yards out as the hosts searched for an equaliser. With six minutes to go the pressure told when Taylor took Loxton's pass and beat Evans from 15 yards.

Halesowen's keeper did well to collect a Brice header with a minute remaining, before the visitors were reduced to 10 men in the dying seconds when Westwood saw red for a second bookable offence.

An interesting day was in prospect with teams in the top three divisions playing the reverse fixture from bank holiday Monday.

Division One's only consistent side this year, Stourbridge, made hard work of their opponents Worcester Nomads but emerged victorious yet again.

The leaders struggled to 161 all out on a Nomads pitch where a par score is often well above 250, but then stepped things up a gear to restrict the hosts to 126 all out.

Stourbridge were the only top-four team to gain a maximum haul of points, with Astwood

Worcestershire County Cricket League

Bank and Pershore both coming up short in their games, *writes Chris Marsh*.

Droitwich gave Astwood a scare, compiling 243-8 thanks to 123 not out from the evergreen Paul Bryan, before the hosts struggled to 137-9 and just held out for a draw, with Mike Rogers taking 5-17.

Doomed

Pershore were never really in contention at home to Bromyard after making an insubstantial 188-9 and lost by eight wickets, while else-

where Worcester beat Oldswinford, Pedmore thrashed Redditch and Bewdley defeated near-doomed Romsey.

In Division Two the leaders Coombs Wood won again, crushing free-falling Malvern with a century from the much-travelled Jon Stanaway.

Hagley surrendered second place to Colwall after being skittled out for 112 and Burghill clung onto fourth by gaining a winning draw over rivals Monmouth.

Dominies' free scoring Jon Hancock scored a second successive hundred, making 168 in his team's 350-5, with Chris Jones also weighing in with a ton.

However, those runs were not enough to defeat Netherton who held on for a draw thanks to Troy Lee's unbeaten 104.

Division Three leaders Rushwick are now 94 points clear of fourth place after winning at Lye, but Alvechurch kept up the pace at the top thanks to fifties from father and son Jimmy Clifford senior and junior in a close win over Harborne.

Stourport remain third after beating Harvington by three wickets despite 100 from Andre Delpoit. Enville overtook Chaddesley thanks to a narrow nine-run victory.

Old Vigornians are still at the foot of the table despite scoring 277-7, including 150 not out from skipper Duncan Hughes, as they were powerless to prevent Birlingham winning with almost five overs to spare.

In Division Four Tenbury had their lead pegged by Stourbridge Social but these two stay well out in front with just two games left.

Division Five leaders Old Hill lost to Barnet Green, which allowed Ross to go second after Old Eliza-bethans beat Bromsgrove.

ECB NATIONAL CLUB T20 COMPETITION AREA FINALS AT LONGTON

Old Hill played hosts Longton in the first semi-final and having won the toss decided to field. Longton posted 159 off their 20 overs but Old Hill managed to reach their target in the last over. Hyde then beat Mochdre in the second semi-final. In the final, Old Hill again won the toss and invited Hyde to bat. They Hyde got off to an electric start with a 50 partnership off the first four overs as they set a target of 183 for Old Hill to chase.

The batsmen started well and upped the rate in mid innings until eight runs were needed for victory off the last two balls. With just a single scored off the penultimate ball, a six was needed off the last ball to bring the scores level. This was achieved by Ed Denham.

When the excitement had subsided and the rule book checked, it turned out that Hyde had won on a faster scoring rate in the first five overs. So near and yet so far.

New rider is signed after two big defeats

STOKE 61 DUDLEY 34

Dudley have reacted to crushing back-to-back away defeats by making a new signing.

Jamie Courtney, son of former rider Mark, is drafted into the team as cover until the injured Adam Roynon is fit to return.

The Heathens followed up their 63-28 defeat at Scunthorpe on Friday with a 61-34 mauling at Stoke on Saturday.

Courtney has plenty of experience in the sport's second and third tiers and was part of Leicester's Premier League set-up earlier this season before losing his place to Charles Wright.

He was due to make his debut in Tuesday's Monmore fixture against Belle Vue with the Heathens still in the play-off chase.

Club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We felt we had to do something because we had two poor results over the weekend which hit confidence within the team."

"I spent a lot of time talking to Will Pottinger (team manager) and he feels the rider-replacement facility puts too much pressure on the other riders, so we moved to sign Jamie."

Stoke: Simon Lambert 15, James Sarjeant 12+1, Jamie Pickard 12+1, Tony Atkin 11+2, Gareth Isherwood 7+2, Ben Beale 4+2.

Dudley: Jon Armstrong 14, Ashley Morris 9, Tom Perry 5, Richard Franklin 4, Darryl Ritchings 2+1, Danny Stoneman 0.

SCUNTHORPE 63 DUDLEY 28

Speedway

Dudley suffered a nightmare thrashing at the hands of a strong Scunthorpe side, losing Adam Roynon to a recurrence of a leg injury.

Roynon's hope that the Heathens would be the hosts' hard and early rebound in the most emphatic manner as his side were swamped 34-7 in the first seven heats.

A late rally added a little surface gloss to the scoreline with Dudley grateful to Danny Stoneman, newly restored to the team.

The reserve combined with Ashley Morris for a 5-1 in the penultimate race and also earned himself an outing in heat 15 on his way to double figures. But even Stoneman had no answer to the home side's top two Ashley Birks and Steve Worrall, each of whom raced to six-ride maximums.

Scunthorpe: Ashley Birks 18, Steve Worrall 16+2, Stefan Nielsen 11+1, Richie Worrall 7+2, Lee Smethills 6+2, Adam Wrathall 5+2.

Dudley: Danny Stoneman 10+1, Jon Armstrong 9, Tom Perry 4, Ashley Morris 3+1, Darryl Ritchings 1+1, Richard Franklin 1+1, Adam Roynon 0.

Dudley now face a massive pair of home matches. They faced Belle Vue on Tuesday and Stoke the following next two Tuesdays. Both become crucial encounters in their bid to reach the end-of-season play-offs. They were sitting one place outside that zone going into Tuesday's fixture.

Hard work but the leaders win again

Musk makes merry before umpire steps in

STOURBRIDGE 1ST (24 PTS) 169 WORCESTER NOMADS 1ST (5 PTS) 126

After scraping together eight points against Pershore cc last week Stourbridge 1sts made amends by bagging maximum points against Worcester Nomads despite another poor batting performance.

Alexander batting at No4 slot top scored with 35 on a pitch that had pace and bounce. Seventeen-year-old Ben Mantom made his debut for the 1sts, a reward for a prolific season with the bat in the second XI.

Like his team mates, he threatened to make a big score but failed to do so the pitch had the last say.

To add to Stour's troubles, James Musk was taken off in his 12th over after claiming four top-order wickets by the umpire for persistently following through in the danger zone, a rare occurrence at this level.

Skipper Richard Bradley won the toss decided to bat. This surprised his opponents and almost backfired after his team was bowled out cheaply in just 42 overs.

First in the procession was the unlucky Alex Bingham when the ball trickling on to his stump bowled by Steve Bowman for five.

Easy

Having steadied the innings, with brother Richard taking the score to 46, Matt Bradley, LBW for 16 to Ben Schifferman.

The determined Alexander made things look relatively easy taking boundaries regularly.

The partnership of 31 between him and his skipper ended when the latter, trying to pull a full length delivery, was bowled for 27 by Bowman.

Just as Musk and Alexander began to dominate wicket fell. Musk saw his stump shattered by Schifferman for 23 that included five fours. A disastrous mis-

understanding between Jitesh Patel and Alexander ended with Alexander run out for 35 after they had put on 30 troubled-free runs.

Nomads then took three quick wickets to leave the league leaders 142-8.

Mantom showed his prowess by striking Jonathan Dilley for three straight fours. He and Kalpesh Patel put on a match-winning 21.

Mantom finished on 18, caught off the bowling of Bowman, taking his team's total to 169 all out.

Schifferman bowled a marathon 17 overs, taking three wickets for 55.

Alex Bingham lifted the gloom for Stour when his direct hit from 35 yards at deep point ran Guy Davies out for a duck.

Jon Englis and Danny Rees took the score to 46 before Musk produced a gem that Rees nicked behind for 30.

Englis also fell to Musk, caught in the slips, and then had Sam Roberts caught. Leg spinner Alexander and Musk had Nomads at 76-6 before a stubborn partnership between Ollie Swift (21) Darren Lakin (29).

Kalpesh Patel had Swift caught and Lakin bowled in the consecutive overs. Alexander finished off the tail Nomads, claiming 3-36.

Brilliant last-wicket stand not enough for winning total

DORRIDGE (20 PTS) 199-2 BEAT OLD HILL (2 PTS) 195-9 BY EIGHT WICKETS

The First XI lost the toss away at Dorridge and were put in to bat on a green wicket and with just seven runs on the board both the Old Hill openers were back in the pavilion and worse was to follow.

Mark Fisher, Nathan Round (27), Dan Wood (22), Carl Whyte and the unfortunate Nigel Davenport run out for 17, joined them as the score lurched to 89-7 in the 24th over, *writes Derek Griffiths*.

Then all hopes of a decent total seemed lost with only 123 runs on the board and the last pair at the wicket.

However, a brilliant unbroken last wicket stand of 72 runs between Jared Daniels 51 not out, his maiden half century for the first team, and last man Zafaran Ali 24 not out, they managed to get the score up to 195-9 in their allotted overs.

Dorridge batsmen then set about their task with gusto as Webb (56) and Butt (24) had 50 runs on the board in just 11 overs, aided by some indifferent bowling from the visitors.

Only Nigel Davenport with 1-21 off his eight overs, seemed able to stem the flow as Ball (77 not out) and T Mohammed (25 not out) steered the home side to an easy win with 20 overs to spare to complete Old Hill's misery. **OLD HILL (24 PTS) 233-6 BEAT WALSALL (3 PTS) 158 BY 75 RUNS.**

The Second XI lost the toss against Walsall at Haden Hill and were put in to bat on a wicket which looked a little bit green but Old Hill's batsmen made light of this and steadily accumulated runs. Joe Thorn (13) and Alex Hills (39) put together an opening stand of 40 and then Nick Couzens (64) and Connor Smith (63) came together and they took the score to 195 with a partnership of 121 runs before being parted. Dan Jones (15 not out) and

Old Hill

Jack Ellis then pushed the total along to 233-6 as the 50 overs were completed. In reply, Walsall found themselves staring defeat in the face as they slumped to 47-5 in the 17th over with a blast of three quick wickets from Dan Jones. The visitors put up the shutters but the hosts stuck to their task as Dan Such (2-22), Connor Smith (1-20), Jack Ellis (1-18), Nick Couzens (1-10) and Jon Baig (1-36) chipped away at the batsmen.

With the last pair at the wicket, Jones was re-introduced and took the last wicket with one ball of the penultimate over remaining to finish with excellent figures of 4-44 as Old Hill won the game by 75 runs to take maximum points.

OLD HILL (7 POINTS) 189 LOST TO BARNET GREEN (24 POINTS) 236 BY 47 RUNS

The Third XI won the toss at Wassell Grove against Barnet Green and chose to field. The visitors batsmen got off to a reasonable start and eventually posted a total of 236 assisted by 8 dropped catches as they were bowled out in the 50th over. Best bowler for Old Hill was Danny Claves with 4-43. In reply, the only home batsman to get going was Reece Shillock who remained unbeaten on 73 as the Old Hill innings closed on 189 in the 38th over. Although beaten Old Hill remain on top of the Table.

BARNET GREEN (17 PTS) 213-9 DREW WITH OLD HILL (5 PTS) 139-9

The Fourth won the toss and asked Barnet Green to bat first in their away fixture at Cherry Hill Road and the home side scored 213-9 from their 45 overs.

Old Hill's reply got off to a good start as Izzy Khan (35) and Ryan Dimmock (27) put together a stand of 78 runs. Unfortunately, when the stand was broken no other Old Hill batsman could get going and it was left to young

Call for leisure teams

Brierley Hill Leisure Leagues have a limited number of spaces and are offering free entry to any teams who sign up.

Playing just an hour of small sided football at the leagues each week is the equivalent of running six miles.

And with just one game at selected competitions now lasting an extended 40 minutes, it is the ideal way to stay in shape and keep fit without going on those mundane jogs around the local park.

Studies, which were cited in football specialist magazine Four Four Two, also revealed that more than 1.5 million people come in to five and six-a-side leagues in the UK. Senior manager Chris Rowntree called for teams to get involved with Europe's largest and longest established. Leisure Leagues runs at Thames Leisure

Centre on Mondays and Rowntree said that rather than pumping your hard earned cash into the local gym, it costs just £3 a week per player, with the entry fee also being waived for a limited period.

He said: "It's a great way of keeping in shape and enjoying football to a competitive standard."

Expand

"We are looking to expand the already thriving small sided game in the area so are offering any teams thinking of getting involved the chance to sign up for free."

The winners and runners up qualifying to compete in the national tournament against the best sides in UK. For further information on joining call 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

sport

TURN TO
PAGE 55
FOR ...

ROUND-UP
OF THE
CRICKET

LATE- GOAL
DESPAIR
FOR YELTZ

STUDENTS
GIVEN
A LESSON

SHOCK RESULT WITH THUMPING VICTORY

Rowe turns poacher to make sure of winning start

CRADLEY TOWN 1 DUDLEY TOWN 4 West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division

Dudley Town produced one of the shock results of the weekend as their new-look side sent a bold message to the rest of the West Midlands Premier.

As the Robins cruised to a 4-1 victory they were also clocking up their biggest away win since a Mark Swann hat-trick helped in earning a 6-0 win at Wolverhampton Casuals in April 2010. Manager Andy Burgess was still

without forward Dreniz Bala while Ben Stretton and Mark Garvey were both drafted back into the side following their absence during the 2-1 victory over Bustleholme on Wednesday night.

It was a fairly even opening few minutes as Dudley's midfield dominance was countered by the ability of Cradley to break away. The Hammers should really have been ahead after seven minutes when former Dudley striker Nathaniel Waite stroked the ball wide of Garvey's post.

Dudley took the lead on the quarter of an hour mark. A beautifully crafted piece of

DUDLEY TOWN

build-up play was executed by Alex Cowley and Todd Warner, which allowed Ben Stretton to come in unmarked from the right to tap the ball past Matt Jones.

Miss

It may well have been a different game if it was not for Garvey. With Matt Bailey through on goal the former Halesowen shot-stopper was able to get down and block the shot. With that miss the home side paid as the rest of the half was one-way traffic.

A fine header from Stretton con-

nected with an Anthony Cox corner extended the lead on twenty-four minutes.

The Robins were playing fluid football and Ben Store had a golden opportunity to make it three just past the half-hour mark but he was crowded out and could only place the ball wide.

But the visitors' travelling support were not made to wait long to go yet another goal further ahead. Alex Cowley this time being allowed to run through and plant a firm shot past Jones on thirty-seven minutes that gave his side an unassailable half-time lead.

Dudley came back after the break

in just as ravenous mood with Warner and Cox causing headache after headache to the Cradley defence.

Although it was Nikki Faux who had the best chance of extending the lead but his shot could only flash past the right hand post after soundly beating Jones.

The home side's frustrations began to show with fifteen minutes remaining and this saw the dismissal of Matt Bailey after he lashed out at Robins captain Richard Langford and was shown a straight red.

Nathaniel Waite and substitute Pheon Jolly kept Dudley's backline

in action but the visitors were just as equal to their threat.

Cradley did snatch a nineteenth minute consolation though when a neatly placed free-kick from Karl Gardner curled over Garvey.

But Dudley soon restored their three goal lead deep into stoppage time when Harry Williams headed home man-of-the-match Todd Warner's cross from the right.

Cradley Town: Jones, Guy (Jolly), Jarrett, Gardner, Henry, Baggott (Moore), Wilkinson (Thomas-Robinson), Evitts, Waite, Bailey, Ludlow. Subs not used: Yakubu, Marsh.

Dudley Town: Garvey, Reeves, Whittaker, Langford, Whitley, Stretton (Roberts), Cox, Cowley (Perry), Store (Williams), Faux, Warner. Subs not used: Jasper, Watkins.

STOURBRIDGE 3 CHIPPENHAM TOWN 1
Evo-stik League Southern Premier Division
The Glassboys fought back from a goal down to make a winning start to the new campaign. With Stourbridge unable to use their usual War Memorial Athletic Ground due to cricket, they played their opening home fixture at Halesowen Town and knew they faced a tough encounter with Chippenhams Town, who last season finished 7th in the League, one place above Gary Hackett's men.

STOURBRIDGE

The initial stages with Ryan Rowe going closest after four minutes as he turned on the left-hand corner of the box before firing over the bar.

However, it was the visitors who drew first blood in the 13th minute.

A throw-in on the right from Mani Randhawa saw the ball inadvertently glance off the top of Aaron Griffiths' head across the Stourbridge back for Dave Gilroy to guide a header out of the reach of Stourbridge keeper Lewis Solly.

A tight, rather scrappy half ensued as Stourbridge struggled to make headway against the Chippenhams back-line. In the 21st minute a ball in from the left by Leon Broadhurst set up Josh Craddock.

His shot from the edge of the box struck Rowe before rebounding to Craddock who dragged his second effort wide.

Six minutes later, Sam Rock threaded the ball through to Rowe, whose shot from 18 yards was too close to Will Puddy in the Chippenhams goal.

Stourbridge looked to have fashioned another chance on 31 minutes as Craddock released Rock with a measured through ball, but Toby Osman got across well to close him down and clear the ball for a corner.

In first-half stoppage time, Stourbridge got back on level terms as Sean Geddes played an awkward low free-kick towards goal Puddy failed to collect the ball cleanly leaving Rowe to poach an equaliser from close range.

Stourbridge raised their game after the break and they forged ahead on the hour when Rowe found Geddes wide on the right. He sent

Headed

As he broke into the Chippenhams area, he went down under the last-gasp challenge of Osman, who was shown the red card.

Geddes sent Puddy the wrong way with his spot-kick to put the Glassboys firmly in the driving seat.

Sub Drew Canavan might have made it four, but he headed over the bar from Rock's left-wing cross.

Stourbridge: Solly, Rock, Griffiths (Canavan), McCone, Geddes, Bennett, Lloyd, Broadhurst, Rowe (Dovey), Dyson, Craddock (Mahon). Subs not used: Smith, and Slater.

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New-boy Alex leads way to success

DUDLEY TOWN 2 BUSTLEHOLME 1 West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division

A dominant performance from Dudley Town's new signing Alex Cowley helped his new side to their first victory of the season.

Although again Dudley were left to rue a host of missed opportunities which would have given the scoreline a more deserving feel.

Along with Cowley, Andy Burgess handed a debut to former Welshpool Town and Rhyl goalkeeper Gerard McGuigan in the absence of the injured Mark Garvey.

Dudley's recently appointed manager made several other slight adjustments to the side that fell to a 2-0 defeat at home to Goodrich on the previous Saturday that included starts for both Ben Store and left-

back Chris Whittaker. Dudley had not beaten Bustleholme since a 4-2 victory at Tipton Sports Academy in April 2009.

Although this was a very different Bs to that of the Karl Dolman and Neil Perks era with only goalkeeper Neil Page a familiar face.

Indeed, Page was kept very busy in the opening stages, with Anthony Cox running Bustleholme's young defence ragged he placed a cross to Ben Store who forced a save from the shot stopper.

Menace

Dudley continued to hassle the visitors but failed to create any clear cut opportunity besides from an Cox shot that was cleared off the line by Craig Skeldon.

While at the other end, Dudley's well marshalled defence gave

McGuigan a quiet first 45 minutes.

The home side stormed out of the blocks in the second half with Cowley being a major menace for the hosts.

It was the former Halesowen Town midfielder who pulled off a fine save from Page on 55 minutes when a thunderous free-kick was tipped over the bar.

It looked as if it was not going to be the Robins' night especially after an indirect free-kick in the box was stubbornly charged down however up-stepped Ben Store.

Picking up a fine long ball from Cox on the left wing Nikki Faux cut in and delivered the ball to Store who made no mistake with the finish on sixty-four minutes.

The lead did not last long as Seb Craven headed home just three minutes later after connecting with a Matt Simmons cross from the right.

Wrong-ground Kristian makes up for mistake with goal-brace blast

GORNAL ATHLETIC 3 AFC WULFRUNIANS 1

Gornal received a welcome morale boost ahead of Saturday's FA Cup tie against Shifnal thanks to a hard-fought league victory against rivals AFC Wulfrunians.

It took a double by Kristian Green, who had initially travelled to Castlecroft thinking the game was an away fixture, as part of a seven-minute three-goal salvo to secure the points.

A fiercely contested first half was edged in terms of chances created by the home side. On 10 minutes a penalty-area scramble ended with the ball finding the feet of Green, who blazed over from six yards.

Minutes later, Pete Wood surged forward from the left-back position and unleashed a stinging shot, which was well saved by Marc Evans. He was back in action shortly afterwards when called to deal with a Dave Meese shot from the edge of the area.

Wulfrunians pressed harder as the half advanced and James Pemberton had to be alert to smother a header from Nathan

GORNAL ATHLETIC

Rose-Laing on 38 minutes. Three minutes later, the visitors took the lead when Richard Anslow timed his run to perfection, raced clear of the defence and expertly lobbed Pemberton.

Just after half-time Anslow had a golden opportunity to double the lead but shot wide and two minutes later Pemberton superbly denied first Anslow and then Richard Palmer.

Crossed

On 53 minutes a soft penalty was awarded to Gornal for a trip on Calum Martin, only for Evans to thwart Meese from 12 yards.

What looked like being a frustrating afternoon for the home side took a turn for the better on 67 when Gornal manager Ian Rowe added Matt Martin and Cameron Morgan to the mix.

Four minutes later Calum Martin crossed for Green to slot home and equalise before Wood and Matt Martin combined to

provide Green with the chance to clinically head home and put Gornal ahead. On 83 minutes, Cameron Morgan wrapped up the points for Gornal when he expertly controlled a Matt Martin cross, wrong-footed the Wulfs defence and smashed home.

In the closing stages Pemberton once again came to the rescue when he produced an excellent double save from Anslow.

Gornal now entertain fellow West Midlands (Regional) Premier League side Shifnal Town at Garden Walk on Saturday in a FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round tie.

Gornal: James Pemberton, Richard Young, Pete Wood, Conor Gater, Chris Waterhouse (Captain); Kristian Green, Jake Morgan (Cameron Morgan, 67); Dave Meese; Marvin Nisbett (John Hill, 77); Calum Martin; Matt Weyman (Matt Martin, 67)

AFC Wulfrunians: Marc Evans; Anthony Collins; Mark Tipton; Graham Ashton (Captain); David Asbury; Richard Palmer; Daniel Crudginton; Michael Eagles (Nathaniel Lawson, 84); Richard Anslow; Nathan Rose-Laing (Adeola Bandede); Ian Boswell.



Two-goal Kristian Green in action

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